



Rail Trail Committee

Minutes for the June 20, 2005 Meeting

7:35 pm

Attendees

Joe Geller
David Reed
Greg Demers
Kathie Tremblay
Nancy Luther
Jim MacDougall
Frank Bodengraven
David Smith, Associate

Guests

Jim Rogel
Matthew Duncan

Old Business

1. David Read and Nancy Luther represented the Committee at the Mass. Electric meeting hosted by the Georgetown rail trail committee on June 7. They reported that the meeting was well attended and that impressed the staff of Mass. Electric. Mass Electric has three main concerns: liability, security and height of lines over the trail. On the later, they need a 10 foot clearance around their lines and it appears that horseback riders may infringe upon this unsafe zone.

Boxford has a final design for upgrading their portion of the trail.

2. The committee will meet with the Selectmen on July 11 at 8 pm to see where they are on signing the lease with MBTA. All members of the committee will be asked to attend and be prepared to answer any questions the Selectmen may have.

3. Web site money was approved by the Selectmen. The Web site should be up and running by July 1.

New Business

David Reed reported that the cost of capping a rail-trail with stone-dust is approximately \$250,000 per mile.

Matthew Duncan of the Danvers Biped Committee met with the Committee. He explained the history and goals of the Danvers' effort to convert their section of the trail to recreational use. They are having success in the southwestern sections but still face opposition in the section near the High School property.

Future Potential Action Items

Does Mass Electric pays taxes on their land in Topsfield?

Review Wetland law for Limited Projects and drainage issues.

What municipalities have signed agreements with MBTA?

Submitted:

July 11, 2005;

Jim MacDougall