



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rail Trail Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 7:30 PM, June 25, 2007

Members present: Joe Geller, Nancy Luther, Gregg Demers
Guests: Mark Gallagher, Walter Harmer, Roy Baessler

New Business:

1. The Selectman recommended that the Rail Trail Committee should be the ones to respond to the various concerns raised in Mr. Callahan's letter and petition. Joe Geller and Dave Read hand delivered copies of the TRTC response letter to all households, except for four which were mailed, who signed the petition. Copies were also given to the Selectmen, NationalGrid and the MBTA.
2. Kathy Tremblay, Joe Geller and Gregg Demers manned the booth at the Strawberry Festival (Dave Read's new baby daughter was born the day before the event so Joe covered his shift). Kathy only encountered one person who did not favor the trail and several people stopped by who did not know about but mentioned they thought it sounded like a great idea for the town. Even with all of our community outreach we need to do more to get the word out so other events may be planned. Joe mentioned that many visitors were quite enthusiastic about the trail and asked to be kept informed of meetings and progress. Several volunteered to future work projects.
3. Brain Woodland's project in the center of town is proceeding along and he's been granted approval to go to the next phase of planning. He is planning on working with the TRTC on a final design to accommodate the trail.
4. Since all 8 towns along the B2B route are at various stages of proceeding with the trail Mass Highway will enlist the services of Trans-Systems, Inc. They will produce a report to the State in the fall which will detail the scope of the work needed to develop an RFP to engineering companies for a 25% design bid.
5. National Grid has agreed to meet with Mass Highway Official and Federal Officials on August 1st to discuss lease vs. license issues. This meeting is being set up to deal with similar issues for other trials of which National Grid is the current landlord.
6. The B2B Coalition, chaired by Steve Golden of the National Park Service, is still planning an event to walk the trail on October 21st. Due to this being the first year and various portions of the trail are in better shape than others the consensus was that the event should be smaller in nature.
7. Roy Baessler got estimates from some contractors to install 1600 ft. of stone dust (6 – 12" gravel and a 2 – 4" fine top coarse). The estimates were in the \$9,000 to \$10,000 range.
8. Joe Geller talked about having a Topsfield "Ironman" contest. The idea would be to pull the steel nails that hold the rails to the ties. This was discussed with Mark Mscicz at the Strawberry Festival.
9. The committee unanimously supported the Friends of Topsfield Trails submission to ERM for a grant.
10. Walter Harmer was asked about Ralph Stump, Conservation Committee member, recusing himself from the upcoming Conservation Commission meeting on June 27th. Walter affirmed that Ralph would recuse himself.

Minutes by Joe Geller

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Unanimously approved with edits on 8/13/07