



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Topsfield Rail Trail Committee Meeting Minutes November 3, 2015 – 8:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Roy Beassler, Gregg Demers and Bill Rossiter

Guests: Pete Hayes, Dick Gandt and John Hart

- 1. Minutes approval:** The minutes of the August 17, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. Grant updates:** We had formally asked for a 6 month extension on the 2015 DCR grant. The next grant deadline is February 1, 2016.
- 3. Main St. Intersection:** We heard back from the town's city Safety Committee who didn't believe eliminating one parking spot was necessary for safer sightlines by cars approaching trail users. The Rail Trail Committee discussed revisiting the decision and asked the Selectmen to consider. Roy made a motion to appeal the decision and Dave seconded it. The motion was approved. Next step was that we'd work on a letter to the Selectman for an appeal.
- 4. Ipswich River Bridge Abutment status:** The design is complete. We can go out to bid. Peter pointed out that we're past the low water point so likely the bridge repair won't occur until next year.
- 5. Phase 4 design:** We have received the draft plans from Stantec Design. They are designing an 8 foot trail with 2 foot shoulders on either side. Some on the committee thought we should be striving for a 10 ft or 12 ft wide trail. The trail needs to be 3 ft. from the utility poles along the route and will be 1.6 miles long. There is one more section that needs a bit more discussion – where the trail crosses Bare Hill Road.

To date Stantec Design has billed us for \$18,000 (out of a maximum of \$28,000).

6. **Trail Maintenance:** Roy introduced John Hart who has volunteered to mow Phase 2 of the trail. The committee also discussed after all the snow last winter if/how we can keep the section of trail clear from Washington St. to the Proctor School. We should try to clear the snow with a few passes using the town's snow-blower and so the DPH does not plow the banks too high at the trail heads. The School Committee should put this request in.
7. **Abutter annoyed:** Ralph Stump reported that some trail users are on the trail after dark. The hours of use for the trail are supposed to be dawn to dusk. The committee discussed if more 'Dawn to Dust' signs for the trail may be needed in the future.
8. **DCR Surplus Equipment:** The state of MA Department of Conservation and Recreation postes used or surplus equipment on their website for auction. Municipalities get the first options on this. Bill wants to see if we can find a golf cart or vacuum so we can get rid of the leaves in the fall.
9. **Election of Officers:** Joe was elected Chair for another term and Dave was elected secretary for another term.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read