



# Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

## Rail Trail Committee

### Minutes of Committee Meeting December 7 2009 – 8:00 PM

*Members Present:* Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Gregg Demers, Roy Baessler, and Katherine Carlson

1. **Old Business:** Minutes from the September 30, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Ribbon-cutting debrief:** This is our first meeting since the ribbon cutting in October and we recapped how successful it was. There were almost 200 people who attended, many from out of town who are looking at Topsfield's success and leadership for developing trails in their towns.
3. **Remaining balance on old grants:** We have approximately \$14,000 remaining for our prior DCR grants that needs to be spent by June 30, 2010.
4. **Outstanding DCR grants:** At this time there is no word on the 2008 or 2009 DCR grant status.
5. **ECTA reimbursement:** The supplies purchased to refurbish the Ipswich River bridge cost approximately \$2,800 and will be reimbursed by the Essex County Trails Association.
6. **Ipswich River Bridge Inspection:** John O'Connell, a licensed bridge inspector, has certified that the Ipswich River bridge is safe for and H20 (20 ton) truck to cross it.
7. **Route 1 Crossing update:** We need to apply for a Mass Highway permit so our Police Department can put crossing tubes down across the road to measure the traffic flow over time. Joe is working with Chief Haglund and Dave Bond of the Topsfield Highway Department. Selectman Nancy Luther was the former Mass Highway Safety Commissioner and she may be able to lend some advice on this issue.
8. **ConsComm NOI:** Jim MacDougall of the Topsfield Conservation Commission will be voluntarily doing the wetlands delineation for the entire 4 mile length of trail. He's willing to start the process now and get as much as possible done until the snow comes and then he'll have to put the project on hold until the spring thaw. Joe is trying to get in touch with Steve Toll of National Grid to get an entry permit for the northern section.
9. **Knotweed Eradication:** We'll need a yearly application and maintenance plan. Katherine Carlson offered to come up with one by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. **Fairgrounds update:** Selectman Dick Gandt has been discussing the many piles of dirt on the right of way with Jamie O'Brien who manages the Topsfield Fairgrounds.

11. **Historical marker:** The final marker donated by the Topsfield Historical Society to be located next to the rail stop on Main St. will be a slightly different design than the temporary one now in place. Norm Isler is working with a graphics designer at Masconomet.
12. **Formal thank you to our funding agencies and volunteers:** For all the agencies (DCR, ENHC, ECTA) and many individuals who have given funds or donated their time to make our trail a reality, the committee wants to send them a formal thank you note. Dave offered to make a large 'thank you' banner and we could meet in the spring on the trail or Ipswich River bridge with our families and friends to take a large group picture for a card to be sent on behalf of all the residents of Topsfield.
13. **State Ethics exam:** Joe reminded all Rail Trail Committee members to complete the on-line State Ethics test.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read