



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rail Trail Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting August 12, 2010 – 10:00 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Gregg Demers, Roy Baessler, and Kat Tremblay

Guests: Dick Gandt (Selectman), Pete Hayes and Bill Rossitter

1. **Iron Horse Preservation update:** All of the rails have been removed from Summer St. to Maple St. IHP has had some recent equipment problems so they are waiting for some replacement equipment arriving from Nevada. Some of the residents have been contacting us about the possibility of getting some of the old ties coming out of the ground. We are referring them to Joe Hatrup of IHP for details.
2. **Phase 2 section started early:** A section of phase 2 was started earlier than we expected it to be. 1000 feet of trail was excavated from Summer St. going south toward Route 1 and put down the base layer of gravel to be ready for Sara Beck's wedding party to walk down the trail from St. Rose's church to her house. IHP hired K&R construction to perform the work to make sure it was done in time for Sara's request. Drainage ditches have not yet been completed on this section of trail and IHP did not contract with them for this part of the trail's construction.
3. **Remainder of phase 2:** Roy said that for the next 500 feet of phase 2 K&R will grade the trail surface and dig drainage ditches where necessary. This section will take up to about 500 feet of Route 1. A motion was made to approve recommending to the Selectmen that we expend \$3,800 to grade the trail and dig the drainage ditches for that section. The Committee approved the motion unanimously. A second motion was made to recommend to the Selectmen that they approve the expenditure of \$4,000 to dig the drainage ditches for the 1,000 section of trail mentioned above. The Committee also approved this unanimously. Roy and Gregg agreed to stakeout the flood plains in that area based on the official wetlands map by Sunday night, August 15th.
4. **Trail Work party:** There is still much brush that's needed to be removed on Phase 2 so that will be the top priority when teams are organized for the work party weekend of August 28/29.
5. **Order of Conditions Compliance:** Gregg contacted 3 wetlands scientists to see if they'd like to be considered to work on our trail project and he got 2 proposals. Based on the differences in proposals, prices and availability Gregg made motion to approve Bill Manual (sp?) and that we ask the Selectmen to approve an expenditure of up to \$6,000 for the necessary the wetlands consultation. The committee approved the motion unanimously. The Conservation will also need to approve our selection of the wetland scientist. Gregg will meet with Lana about this.

6. **Knotweed update:** We have obtained approval of a Limited Application Waiver from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. We need to do a public notice 48 hours in advance and then there's a 21 day waiting period. Gregg has secured a licensed professional to apply the herbicide and we are planning for the week of August 23rd for application of the herbicide and then we can cut the tall knotweed down 48 hours later.
7. **Traffic study update:** The traffic counters were put in place on Friday August 6th and need to be in place for at least a week. Bill Bent, a traffic engineer from Beverly, has offered to analyze the data for the town when ready.
8. **Storage Shed update:** At the last meeting we approved funding to build a small (8'x12') to be placed somewhere approximately halfway along the 4 mile trail. Kat Tremblay proposed us purchasing a used horse trailer that should be large enough for us to store the mower and small brush trailer. A horse trailer was proposed as they are secure or can be made secure and as importantly it and the equipment can be easily moved as necessary. Everyone liked this idea so Roy made motion to rescind the previous motion to expend the allocated monies for the supplies to build a storage shed and reallocate them to purchase a horse trailer.
9. **Signage subcommittee update:** Kat showed us examples of aluminum cast iron signs that could be used for areas on the trail where we want to recognize individual or group's significant financial contributions to the trail effort, most notably at this point for the donation received to redeck the Ipswich River Bridge. Dave has also had some experience with trail signs so he and Kat will work on the signs together.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 AM Friday

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read