



# Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

## Minutes of Committee Meeting March 6, 2012 – 8:30 PM

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

*Guests:* Dick Gandt (Selectman), leadership from the Institute for Savings (names below), Masco Senior intership volunteers (names below) for trail work

- 1. Minutes approval:** The minutes of the Novemembr 16, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. Masco Internships for Trail Work:** Several Masco students attended the meeting to offer to perform some trail work as part of the required Masco internship program for seniors. Jake Gillespie, Brian Hellrigel, Andy Beaton and possibly others can work up to 25 hours per week for 4 weeks. All have a drivers licence. The TRTC agree that the students need to be supervised and that they should not use power tools but can do some needed manual labor on sections of the trial. Roy highlighted a half-dozen on-going maintnece projects and tasks they could help us with.
- 3. Institution for Savings Parking Proposal:** The Institution for Savings will be opening a new branch at 5 Main St. They will need more parking and are proposing to extend the public parking lot on Park St. This would impact the alignment of the trail for the section near Summer St. but seems possible. Joe pointed out that all work will need to abide by the MassDOT manual guidelines for this level of project. Brad Latham, Presidnt of the Bank, Chris Latham, the bank's legal council, Charlie Wear of Meredian Assocaties (engineering firm) presented the plan and the accompanying landscaping that will be performed. The impact for the trail is that it will be paved and striped from Main St. to Summer St. As a next step Joe will discuss details with Dave Bond at the Highway Department.
- 4. Route 1 Crossing update:** We are expecting the drawings back from TEC Enginerring firm soon on all the aspects of the Route 1 Crossing so Joe can send then present to Mass Department Transportaion. The engineering plan will include details about the crosswalk, location of orange LED flashing lights, the signage approaching the lights, and handicapped accessible apron for the trail leading up to the crossing. Dave presented a plan for fencing and gates for the east side of the crossing that will match those on the west side which the firm can incorporate into the overall plan. As a next step Joe will ask Jamie O'Brien of the Fairgrounds if they would supply the electricity for the pedestrain activated crossing lights. He will submit the plan to Mass Highway when ready.

5. **Phase 4 update:** Kathleen O'Donnell the lawyer representing Topsfield, Georgetown and Boxford is working with legal counsel at National Grid. The National Grid lawyer recently asked for a drawing of exactly where the trail will be placed on the right of way.
6. **Trail Signage:**
  - a. **Town line posts:** Dave presented an example of the town line post to be installed at the Wenham line. Kate Day, town planner for Danvers asked him to make ones for Danvers/Wenham and Danvers/Peabody lines which he will do. As a next step Joe will present at Cons Comm meeting a request to dig a hole for the 4x4 post.
  - b. **Pick up your trash signs:** Kat and Roy are still working on various designs for these but are close to getting some made. They are tweaking the wording and colors of the signs.
7. **PE Completion Report for ConsComm:** We need to complete the PE Certification for Phases 2 and 3 of the trail. Gregg needs to document any deviation from previously submitted plans and record the "Order of Conditions" for the "Notice of Intent". In some places the trail is approximately 6 inches lower than originally planned so Greg will note this in the report.
8. **Erosion at Route 97 Canoe landing:** Jim McDougall is working on a solution with Pat Huckery at Mass Fish and Wildlife and Ed Becker at Essex County Greenbelt Association to come up with a plan to halt and correct the erosion in that area as a result of all the people parking to put canoes and kayaks in the Ipswich river.
9. **Culverts:** Roy said that the Cons Comm has approved the needed culverts to help mitigate any erosion of stone dust on the trail. Work will be performed in the summer.
10. **Border to Boston Trail update:** Dave debriefed the group on the following trail advancements:
  - a. **Wenham:** put in a parking area at route 97 trail crossing where many cars had been parking along the road. They are also in the process of installing their cross-alert system on the busy stretch of road.
  - b. **Danvers:** is planning a large ribbon cutting ceremony on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, National Trails Day. There will be food, music, trail walks and a local distributor will be branding and labeling Rail Trail Root Beer.
  - c. **Peabody:** Iron Horse Preservation is working on that section of trail just south of Danvers at route 114 up to Lowell St. which will be the southern terminus of the B2BT.
  - d. **Salisbury:** has started construction on the loop under Route 1 which will help trail users avoid crossing the highway to get over to the sidewalk on the bridge over the Merrimac River. The project will also include a picnic area on the river.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read