



Town of Toppsfield

TOPPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Minutes of Committee Meeting January 15, 2013 – 8:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Roy Baessler, and Gregg Demers
Guests: Dick Gandt (Selectman) and Bill Rossiter

1. **Minutes approval:** The minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. **National Grid update:** Before we can develop the trail north to Boxford, the town needs a licensing agreement with National Grid. Dick Gandt edited a copy of the Georgetown licensing agreement. Dave has organized a meeting this coming Thursday of the Border to Boston Trail Coalition. Representatives from each of the 8 towns the route goes through are expected to attend as well as Shannon Larson and Steve Towle from National Grid. As a next step National Grid also needs to see if there is any significant electrical leakage from the wires high overhead.
3. **Review of recent accomplishments on trail:** Some of the trail enhancements and maintenance projects were reviewed including:
 - a. **Gates:** were installed on the south side of Route 1.
 - b. **Crossing lights:** were installed at route 97. These were budgeted for at \$8k but were completed at under \$5,400.
 - c. **Brush removal:** occurred last week on section 3B of the trail.
4. **Finishing touches needed:** A review of projects we'll undertake in 2013 was reviewed:
 - a. **Brush removal:** More cutting back of brush along several section of the trail is needed.
 - b. **Curb-cut:** This would prevent cyclists and baby carriages from having to go off the curb or ride awkwardly into Grove St. before crossing Main St. Gregg sent drawings to Dave Bond in the Highway Dept.
 - c. **Benches:** The group discussed 7 or 8 locations these could be located. Roy recommended that these be a Boy Scout project. Bill recommended that they be made of granite. Since these are more expensive, a the group discussed if it should organize a fundraiser to help pay for these.
 - d. **Kiosks:** Dave discussed a few locations where small kiosk make out of pressure treated wood could go. These could contain information about the trail and a map with the current completed sections of the Border to Boston Trail. There is now one on the trail at the Swampwalk on the Wenham/Danvers town line.

5. **Grant Applications:** Gregg is sending in the following grant applications:
 - a. **Mass. Dept of Conservation and Recreation:** A request for \$62,500 will be submitted for 3 trail projects: Ipswich River Bridge abutment repair, Main St. curb cut, and a better parking area at the canoe landing on Route 97. DCR grants require a 20% financial or in-kind match that results in \$50,000 spendable dollars with the rest in documented volunteer hours.
 - b. **Essex National Heritage Commission:** a \$1,500 grant will be submitted to go toward Phase 4 work.
 - c. **Cliff Bar Family Foundation:** a \$8,000 will be submitted for general trail work
6. **Winterizing trail equipment:** The group discussed what we may need to do, if anything, to the equipment stored at the old highway garage before it gets too cold. Joe said he would pick up the batteries in the trim mower.
7. **Possible/future trail events:**
 - a. **Running events:** Joe said he would talk with Gillie as the running group from the local towns meet at his store. Dave mentioned that since 8.5 miles of contiguous trail are now completed then the three towns of Topsfield, Wenham and Danvers could host a safe half marathon along the trail. We may need police detail officers to help runners cross at route 1 and 97.
 - b. **Kids bike rides:** The Cub Scouts held a short trail ride from Topsfield Center to the Swampwalk help on the Friday after Thanksgiving. They are interested in making this an annual event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read