



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Topsfield Rail Trail Committee Meeting Minutes June 9, 2014 – 8:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, and Gregg Demers and Bill Rossitor

Guests: Dick Gandt (Selectman), Pete Hayes and Wade ?

- 1. Minute's approval:** The minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. Main St. Curb Cuts:** Have been completed making that intersection much safer for cyclists so they don't go over the curb and fall. Stop signs have also been installed to alert approaching trail users of the Main St. crossing.
- 3. Ipswich River Bridge abutment work:** The company determined that the abutments are structurally sound and is no scouring below the waterline. The conditions for the Emergency Order are now complete. The permanent fix will require re-notification of the Conservation Commission.
- 4. National Grid Substation:** The work at route 1 should be completed by Labor Day and the fence will come down and the area is expected to be left in its original condition.
- 5. Route 97 Parking area update:** Our proposal for a parking area across from the canoe landing has been initially turned down by Mass Fish and Wildlife. The good news is that there is town land just a little further down route 97 so we need to submit a plan to Dave Bond at Town Highway Dept. Joe and Dick went down to measure it out. If we decide to go this route we'll need to take down some trees and also file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Topsfield Conservation Commission.
- 6. Phase IV status:** We are still waiting for Jim McDougal to do the wetlands delineation of wetlands plants. If he is too busy we could also get this done through Essex County Trails Association.
- 7. Trail Maintenance:** Roy, Bill and Pete rented a brush hog from Home Depot and were able to make some great progress on Phase III. Joe mowed from Oak Drive to the Boxford Line. The trail has now been completely moved on Phases I thru III.

- 8. Informational Kiosk update:** A combined grant application on behalf of Topsfield, Wenham and Danvers was submitted to the Essex National Heritage Commission and accepted for funding. This will pay for materials and weather resistant informational panels for four kiosks in the following areas: Topsfield (Washington St.), Wenham (Route 97), Danvers (Putnamville), and Danvers (Plains Historic Railroad station). The town of Peabody has also learned of this initiative and they have funding and would like to get a similar one at the Lowell St. Trail Head. The panels will all be similar to that of the Route 1 kiosk. They will have a map of the trail, mileages to select locations on the trail and some local history or the particular area where the trail is going through. Dave has offered to volunteer to build the 5 kiosks over the next few months in his woodshop. He will purchase supplies and coordinate reimbursement through the town of Danvers.
- 9. Strawberry Festival planning:** Joe, Dave and Bill will staff the Rail Trail booth in the morning. Pete and Deb will staff the booth in the afternoon. We'll have new maps for distribution and Topsfield caps for sale and Rail Trail t-shirts for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read