



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Topsfield Rail Trail Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2015 – 8:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Roy Beassler, Gregg Demers and Bill Rossiter

Guests: Dick Gandt and Pete Hayes

- 1. Minutes approval:** The minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. DCR Grant update:** Of the \$49,000 grant we have aprox. \$29,000 remaining for the next phase of the Ipswich River Bridge abutment work. Joe has been talking to a structural design engineering firm and has a proposal from McBrie, LLC for \$4,200. We may also need to find a geotechnical engineer unless the town building inspector waves that requirement. Gregg made a motion that we hire both a structural engineer and geotechnical firm for up to \$10,000 in combined fees and the motion was approved unanimously. Glenn Clohecy, building inspector, was asked about the bridge work and he could not offer any suggestions.**Phase 4 wire height measurements:** Joe purchased a device to measure wire heights and discussed the process with National Grid. Gregg offered to finish measurements. Joe to complete from Oak Drive to Boxford line.
- 3. Parking area at Route 97 trail intersection:** Holger Luther of the Conservation Commission is in favor of developing a parking area on Route 97 near the trail head and canoe landing. As next steps we need a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted to the Conservation Commission and \$75 filing fee with the Register of Deeds. We may be able to combine this paperwork with the NOI for Phase 4 and/or the parking area on Rt. 97.

4. **Masco Intern Update:** Our intern painted the trail gates and cleared out some of the swales. This will be his 3rd and final week and he will be cutting back on some low hanging branches on Phase 4 and some trail surface work.
5. **Route 1 Light Pole:** The northwest flashing light pole fell over. It was installed using only a few of the threads on the pipe and that didn't make it secure enough. Joe spoke with Coviello Corporation who installed it. For a more stable fix, Joe and Bill put a 2 foot long by 3.5" diameter pipe insert that was welded to a metal plate. Joe will call MassDOT to let them know about this fix and we'll need to do this on the other pole as well.
6. **Kiosk install update:** On Saturday, April 25th, five informational kiosks made by Dave and Brandon Read were installed along the southern section of the Border to Boston Trail: one at Washington St. in Topsfield, one in Wenham, two in Danvers and one in Peabody. Dave trained installation captains for each location and there were many volunteers from Comcast Corporation as part of their Community Care Days.
7. **Bike Repair Stand installation:** The stand was funded from Friends of the Topsfield Trails and the North Shore Cyclists. Joe got an 18" diameter pipe and he and Dave dug a 3 foot hole between the parking lot and Main St. Bill then mixed 8 ninety pound bags of cement to install the stand.
8. **Phase 4 building estimate:** Danvers paid \$50,000 for 4.5 miles of trail surface by Iron Horse Preservation but that seems like a very good deal and it will likely cost us as much for our 2 miles of trail.
9. **Strawberry Festival planning:** We are signed up to have a booth again this year for our continued outreach. Joe will send out emails to see who can staff it and when.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read