



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM

2023 JUN -7 PM 4:09

MILLBURY, MASS.

Board Members in Attendance:

Bruce DeVault (Chairman), **Cameron Graves** (Vice Chairman),
Raymond Kelley (Clerk),

Board Members Absent

Raymond Keddy (Member), **Michele Piselli** (Member)

Meeting Subjects:

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Committee membership
3. Earth Day participation and results
4. Update - new nature trail and learning area project (w/BRWA)
5. Update - Stowe Meadows, with guest: Phil Johanson (BRVNHCC)
6. Update - Brierly Pond
7. Update - Rail Trail
8. Update - Equipment trailer
9. Planning - schedule for summer meetings and activities, and training classes
10. Review and approve previous Minutes.
11. Roundtable discussion
12. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Mr. DeVault called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Committee membership

Mr. DeVault explained that the Millbury Nature Trails Committee members terms are all set to expire in 2023 because all members were given a 3-year term when the Committee was formed in 2020. During the renewal period, each member will be assigned a term that will expire in 1, 2, or 3 years to create the standard schedule for term expirations, applied evenly to all members. Paperwork to process these changes will be completed soon with the help of the Town Manager, **Sean Hendricks**.

3. Earth Day participation and results

Mr. DeVault and **Mr. Kelley** reported 26 people participated with the Committee in Earth Day cleanups at 6 different locations: Brierly Conservation Area, Canal St, Miles Nook (at Millbury Central Cemetery), Park Hill Ave, the Rail Trail, and Windle Field. The Millbury DPW picked up and disposed of all collected trash. Additional cleanup work was done by the Goretti's Supermarket staff in their area and others in Town.

4. Update - new nature trail and learning area project (w/BRWA)

Mr. DeVault explained the trail has been approved by the Cemetery Commission. The next steps are to go the Conservation Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The name of the trail will be the "George D'Auteuil Sr. Memorial Nature Trail at the Millbury Central Cemetery". He explained the process of getting the trail implemented would probably take a year or two.

Joanne Holahan explained the educational role this area has played in the past and the plan to use the trail for future educational purposes.

Mr. Kelley made a Motion to approve the “George D’Auteuil Sr. Memorial Nature Trail”. **Mr. Graves** seconded the motion. **Mr. DeVault** took a vote, and the motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. DeVault will be leading the continuing discussions on the trail, which should be at the Conservation Committee on May 17th and then at the Board of Selectmen, hopefully on May 23rd.

5. Update - Stowe Meadows, with guest: Phil Johanson (BRVNHC)

Phil Johanson is a volunteer with the Blackstone Valley National History Corridor (BRVNHC) handling recreational hikes. **Mr. DeVault** took him on a tour of Stowe Meadows, and the historical significance of the area was obvious, which is a key element for the BRVNHC hikes. **Mr. Johanson** suggested dates for a hike on a Saturday at 10 AM. The Committee will discuss the dates and pick what day works best. The ideal plan discussed was entering the area from the 3 trailheads, with 3 Committee members leading 3 separate groups, and meeting in the middle; then returning back the way each group came from. Issues discussed included: (1) parking, (2) establishing an address or location where to meet, (3) temporary signage, (4) completing the trail work in time, (5) signup sheets, (6) naming the event (maybe as the “Stowe Meadows Hike”), and (7) participation waivers.

6. Update - Brierly Pond

Mr. DeVault will be touring the area with a volunteer who wants to see the current situation before actively participating with his equipment. There’s still lots of work to be done.

Mr. Kelley brought up the Earth Day activities and how much trash was removed on land adjacent to the conservation area, which was probably from previous oil companies.

7. Update - Rail Trail

Mr. DeVault will be marking trees that need to be removed or chopped and covered to make the section of the trail that is overgrown (from Gover Rd west towards Millbury Ave.) to be more passable. He will talk to the Tree Warden for advice about removing the trees and to get this accomplished.

8. Update - Equipment trailer

Mr. DeVault purchased a chainsaw attachment for the SKIL multi-tool. The equipment trailer is well-stocked with two each of most tools. The solar panels have arrived, but still need to be installed by a volunteer.

9. Planning - schedule for summer meetings and activities, and training classes

Mr. DeVault will run some training classes at the trail worksites, some on Wednesday nights and some on Saturday mornings, with the frequency based on attendance and need, starting with once-a-month. The first sessions were planned for Saturday, May 20th at 10 AM at Stowe Meadows (meeting at the corner of Carleton Rd and Stowe Rd) and Wednesday, May 24th at 6 PM at the Rail Trail (meeting at the corner of Gover Rd and Railroad Ave).

The schedule of meetings for the rest of 2023 will be June, August and October. The planned calendar year schedule for 2024 and beyond will now be February, March, April, May, June, August, and October. This will be updated when the Committee next submits an official schedule to the Town Clerk. Confirming the ZOOM id information needs to be done for any special meetings that are added in the future, to avoid paperwork issues.

10. Review and approve previous Minutes

No Minutes were available for review or approval.

11. Roundtable discussion

Mr. Kelley brought up the Town Committees' summary reports that were included in the booklet handed out at the May Town Meeting as a useful place to promote the Nature Trails Committee. He will look into how that information is gathered and the schedule for submissions.

Mr. DeVault will be talking to Mr. Hendricks about the possible sixth open spot on the Committee and who might be interested in it.

Instructor/certification classes for **Mr. DeVault** and waivers for training were discussed.

Jacob Decatur has a more service hours left to log and then his Eagle Scout Service Project will be at Brierly Pond, creating bike stations along the trail.

Social media suggestions for videos/posts: posting a walk along each trail, and giving an overview of the trails.

Suggested app for hiking: Map My Hike. Hikes can be shared with others, on Facebook.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn, and **Mr. Graves** seconded the motion. **Mr. DeVault** took a vote, and the motion was unanimously passed.



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Signature of Attendees and Approval for Minutes from
Tuesday, May 9, 2022

Bruce DeVault – Chairman: Bruce M DeVault

Cameron Graves – Vice Chairman: _____

Raymond Kelley – Clerk: Raymond D Kelley

Raymond Keddy – Member: _____

Michele Piselli – Member: Michele M Piselli

Comments:
