



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2023 DEC 26 AM 10:15
MILLBURY, MASS.

Board Members in Attendance:

Bruce DeVault (Chairman), **Raymond Kelley** (Clerk), and **Ken Bedard** (Member)

Board Members Absent:

Cameron Graves (Vice Chairman) and **Michele Piselli** (Member)

Meeting Subjects:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Update – Stowe Meadows
3. Update – Rail Trail
4. Update – Brierly Pond
5. Update – Butler Farm
6. Update – equipment and trailer
7. Update – hands-on activities
8. Community – collaborations/partnerships and awareness
9. Committee schedule and membership/organization – Linda Dalton
10. Guest speakers – Stephen O’Connell (Turning Point Engineering) & Chad Boardman (Eastland Partners) - Clearview trails
11. Review and approve previous Minutes
12. Roundtable discussion
13. Adjournment

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Update – Stowe Meadows

We’ve been very successful with tasks on the Stowe Meadows trails over the past few years. Stowe Meadows is nearly completed. The only remaining task is to hang the kiosk sign. Our carpenter Jim is going to complete that task.

Mr. DeVault is going to be working with the Boy Scouts to do a bit of trail blazing at these trails. They Sutton Boy Scouts are also creating arrows/directional markers for the trails (hopefully to be done by Thanksgiving).

Recently we had a tour of the trails and there was a great turnout. There were 34 people who attended the tour. Great day.

3. Update - Rail Trail

We’re working from Gover Road towards the center of town. The other direction is in good shape. Probably needs a trash cleanup planned for areas near Grafton Street in Worcester. Plans are already in the works for clearing between Gover Road over to Millbury Avenue. There’s a gentleman who is very eager to work with Mr. DeVault on the rail trails and scope out.

4. Update - Brierly Pond

There is a gentleman who has volunteered to use his tractor to start making his way up to the location of the bike repair station. Note: at some point we will need to consider reimbursing the gentleman for his gasoline. The bike station is going to be installed between the posts on Old Common Road. The intent for the tractor is to spread road grindings (ground up tar) in the muddy spots. The trails are in pretty bad shape currently and it's possible for people to drive right into the trail area. Someone even left an old flat bottom boat up there. This area needs to be gated in the future. In the meantime, we're going to install signage to discourage bad behavior up there.

The bike repair station will be here in the next 3-4 weeks and the gentleman who is installing the cement platform for the bike station should be done installing it before the bike repair station arrives.

Mr. DeVault took a Jeep ride through the area. He would like to set dates for workshops during the winter (remove trees, etc.). The intent is to return these trails to a decent state. Again, they're pretty bad.

ACTION ITEM: 10/12/2023 – Meeting at the Brierly Clubhouse @ 5:00-7:00 PM.

This will be the 1st workshop. The Brierly residents present stressed the need to be mindful of people who do snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on these trails during any of the repair work, e.g., the ruts on the sides of the trails aren't getting filled in and we don't want anyone to get wounded while using the trails. We need to understand how far the Conservation Committee is willing to help out with funding.

Mr. DeVault would like to gather everyone's emails from the Brierly Clubhouse. The intent is to keep in touch over the winter. Ms. Dalton will schedule weekly reminders to be sent to Bruce during the winter.

5. Update – Butler Farm

The Butler Farm residents would like to recreate the trails that used to be there but have become quite rundown. There are three entry points to the trails. We need to locate the trail heads. We know that one trail leads to a water tower and the water company is involved in that area. This land belongs to the Town of Millbury. It's not conservation land.

ACTION ITEM: 10/07/2023 – Mr. Bedard and Mr. DeVault will to do a ride through this weekend on a 4-wheeler. 10/14/2023 – Everyone is invited to join a ride through of the area. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 AM.

6. Update - equipment and trailer

The trailer is chuck full. We have 250 stakes for use to stake off the proposed trail and tree planting.

7. Update – hands-on activities

Mr. DeVault would like to purchase some small trees to install for trail demarcation. Possible to do this as an "Earth Day" activity.

8. Community – collaborations/partnerships and awareness

Ryan MacKoul, a potential Eagle Scout from Grafton, would like to assist with MNTC in hopes of earning his Conservation Badge. He needs to complete at least three hours of work. Mr. DeVault presented the Boy Scout with his contact information and will engage with him during the winter to work out a schedule for him. Mr. DeVault will provide Ms. Dalton with the scout's contact information.

9. Committee schedule and membership/organization – Linda Dalton

Linda Dalton was welcomed as a new committee member.

10. Guest speakers – Stephen O'Connell (Turning Point Engineering) & Chad Boardman (Eastland Partners) – Clearview trails

Steve O'Connell and Chad Boardman presented the draft "Clearview – Open Space Community Definitive Plan" for the trail system behind Clearview. The plans, which have been approved by the Conservation Committee, were given to the MNTC. The plans are marked to detail both of the parking areas (5 parking spots at the main lot), the currently existing trails and the new proposed trails. There are over two (2) miles of trails that have been staked out and marked. These trails are an asset to the community. Over the winter Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Boardman will be scoping out the final details for construction of the trails and timing for the build (better line of sight during this time of year and ground is frozen which allows machinery). Mr. DeVault will go out and map the area to check it out and potentially start the process for a kiosk.

Mr. O'Connell would like to know if there could be an opportunity to collaborate with the Boy Scouts for beautification activities on the trails. Mr. DeVault does know several Boy Scout Troops in the local area and he will reach out to and see if they're interested in helping. Mr. DeVault was interested in understanding who will be responsible for upkeep/maintenance going forward, e.g., for foot traffic and the existing bridges that are in place.

11. Review and approve previous Minutes

Mr. DeVault requested a separate meeting to review / approve the minutes, and he also felt the need to have discussions regarding covering potential setup costs for the bike station with reimbursement from the Boy Scout when his funding become available. There was a discussion regarding finances and purchases during the winter months. Bruce wants pre-approval to cover materials purchase(s) for the bike station and any other potential purchases.

ACTION ITEM: 10/11/2023 – Committee Meeting to review/approve meeting minutes at 7:00 PM

MOTION: Ray Kelley made a motion that Mr. DeVault be given a budget of \$500 to use as he sees fit for any trail related activities during the winter season.

2nd: Ken Bedard. Motion carried without any further discussion.

12. Roundtable discussion

Included in the “Review and approve previous Minutes” section above.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Ken Bedard made a motion to adjourn.

2nd: Ray Kelley.

Mr. DeVault took a vote. The vote was unanimous and carried without any further discussion.



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

**Signature of Attendees and Approval for Minutes from
Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

Bruce DeVault – Chairman: Bruce M DeVault

Cameron Graves – Vice Chairman: _____

Raymond Kelley – Clerk: Raymond D Kelley

Kenneth Bedard – Member: Kenneth G Bedard

Michele Piselli – Member: _____

Comments:
