



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM

RECEIVED
CLERK
2023 APR -7 AM 11:34
MILLBURY, MASS.

Board Members in Attendance:

Bruce DeVault (Chairman), Cameron Graves (Vice Chairman),
Raymond Kelley (Clerk), Michele Piselli (Member)

Board Members Absent

Raymond Keddy (Member)

Meeting Subjects:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Rachel Goclawski - trails as education tools
3. Jacob Decatur - Scout badge possibilities
4. Andy Bengston - joining Brierly Pond conservation area work
5. Joanne Holahan & Ken Bedard (Blackstone River Watershed Association) - new nature trail and learning area project
6. Earth Day plans & ZAP 50 report/follow-up
7. Update - Stowe Meadows & Stowe Road trailhead
8. Update - Rail Trail
9. Review and approve previous Minutes
10. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

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

2. Rachel Goclawski - trails as education tools

Rachel Goclawski is a Forging and Mushrooming instructor. She is currently holding classes at Waters Farm in Sutton MA. Rachel is excited to hear that the town of Millbury has so many trails that she can use for her educational purposes. She will be able to stay here in town as well as use other locations. Bruce DeVault announced that Rachel is looking for a place that she might be able to use for her educational classes that will allow 15 to 20 people or even 10 to 15 possibly with a stove so she can do a work shop with cooking classes. Coleen Spellman from East Millbury asked Rachel how to get more involved. Rachel said her Facebook page is "Cooking with Mrs. G" in the Waters Farm web page.

3. Jacob Decatur - Scout badge possibilities

Jacob Decatur is a Scout from Troop 22 in Worcester. Jacob is working towards his Eagle Scout Award, so he is interested in getting his merit badge for Citizenship in the Community. He will have to put in eight hours of community service and he wants to volunteer with the Committee. The Committee can document his hours so he can turn them in for his badge. Jacob said he has until January of 2024 to complete his Eagle Scout award. Jacob also stated that he could work on his other badges while he waits to do his community service with the Committee. Bruce DeVault stated that there are probably several badge opportunities available with the Committee. Raymond Kelley asked if there were any other troop members that might need their badges. Jacob said there is probably one other from Millbury.

Michele Piselli asked if Jacob needed an Eagle project. Jacob stated that he currently had one he is going to start, hopefully in the Spring.

4. Adam* Bengston - joining Brierly Pond conservation area work (*corrected name)

Adam Bengston is a scientist with a Major in Chemistry and a Minor in Biology. Adam is looking to help Millbury by researching the Brierly conservation area to see if he can find a way to control the Bittersweet growth and also has interest in possibly planting some trees. He is currently researching the types of trees we should investigate.

Ron Stead commented on possibly getting in touch with the Town Tree Warden. National Grid had just given the warden a donation for planting trees in Town and the Committee could suggest places for planting.

James Walsh from the Brierly condo association is asking for some guidance on how he can help with the bittersweet and clearing and recreating trails. Adam Bengston gave suggestions on pesticides to use. **Bruce DeVault** said he had some ideas that need to be put into work shop mode.

Bruce was looking into fixing the ruts with heavy equipment and getting a cost for that repair work. The ruts are about ¾ mile long.

5. Joanne Holahan & Ken Bedard (Blackstone River Watershed Association) - new nature trail and learning area project

JoAnne Holahan & Ken Bedard are on the board of the **Blackstone River Watershed Association**. JoAnne & Ken showed a presentation for a path and nature learning area at the edge of Central Cemetery that they had presented to the Cemetery Commission in 2018. They hit a roadblock at the first meeting due to lack of parking, so they started to investigate a solution. They were looking into parking at Felter's Mill, the big lot on River street, and at a few street parking spots, but then COVID happened, which put a stop to everything. Parking is still an issue that needs to be figured out. Now that things are getting back to normal, and Millbury has the Nature Trails Committee, Joanne and Ken decided to present their idea to the Committee for advice and assistance about how to proceed.

After the presentation **Raymond Kelley** asked if Ken had an idea of cost for the plan. Ken stated that it would be minimal because a rough path is there already. There would be cost for the kiosk/signage at the trail head and the need for a small bridge at an area called "Miles Nook", and donations might be required. **Bruce DeVault** stated assistance for building a bridge might be found from the local carpenters school.

Bruce DeVault and Raymond Kelley both asked if there would be any tree cutting. Ken stated that for a path most of what is needed is brush and debris. Bruce DeVault stated it sounds like the tools we have would do the trick and most likely would not have to hire any professional tree cutters. Joanne & Ken both believe the area would be a good educational and public engagement area. They also believe it would be a great addition to the Blackstone River Watershed Association.

Cameron Graves asked if there was any buy-in from the Conservation Committee or the Cemetery Commission and why do we have to go from Commission to Commission? Bruce DeVault stated that the commissions are there for a reason and communication between all would be more respectful and it would be easier to work together. **Ron Stead** had some encouraging comments and stated that he would not have a problem with this idea.

6. Earth Day plans & ZAP 50 report/follow-up

Raymond Kelley stated that Earth Day is on April 22nd and the next Committee meeting is April 4th, so he asked for some ideas for Earth Day. **Bruce DeVault** stated that the Rail Trail could use some cleanup, Brierly conservation area needs the same, and is also a possibility for tree planting in the cleared area. **JoAnne Holahan** suggested a cleanup at one spot along the River, at the edge

of Central Cemetery, where trash collects because it's a sharp turn. She calls it "Miles Corner", due to the closest grave marker. Bruce stated there was a collection of trash at Brierly that could also be tackled.

Raymond Kelley stated that the Committee and the Town should keep partnering with other local organizations, like the Blackstone River Watershed Association, in mind when planning future projects to maximize results. Raymond Kelley stated Ken Bedard has a great guide for doing cleanup projects that could be used by the Committee. Raymond Kelley is also working on a summary report of ZAP 50 that includes ways to partner with local organizations that will be shared with the Town.

7. Update - Stowe Meadows & Stowe Road trailhead

Bruce DeVault stated the Kiosks with the maps are now setup and in use. Establishing parking for the new Stowe Road trailhead will require input involvement with the Planning Board and the trailhead will be closed until that time.

8. Update - Rail Trail

Cameron Graves brought up the Rail Trail continuation from Gover Road to the center of Town. Bruce DeVault stated that in his opinion that was not an Earth Day project. Bruce DeVault also stated that he would like to get together with Cameron Graves to come up with a plan to move forward on the Rail Trail.

9. Review and approve previous Minutes

No Minutes were available for approval or review.

10. Adjournment

Raymond Kelley made a motion to adjourn, and Cameron Graves seconded the motion. Bruce DeVault took a vote, and it was unanimous.



NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

**Signature of Attendees and Approval for Minutes from
Tuesday, February 7, 2022**

Bruce DeVault – Chairman: Bruce M DeVault

Cameron Graves – Vice Chairman: Cameron Graves

Raymond Kelley – Clerk: Raymond D. Kelley

Raymond Keddy – Member: _____

Michele Piselli – Member: Michele M Piselli

Comments:
