

Rail Trail Committee Minutes
October 2, 2012
700PM BOS Meeting Room

Member attendees: Tim Holiner, Matthew Schmid, Mary McLaughlin, Kate Cannie, Greg Hills, Mark Howe, Elaine Rosenburg, Carol Lisbon

Guests: Bob White - Wellesley Natural Resources Committee, Trail Subcommittee

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting were approved.
2. Discussion with Bob White – a representative of the Trail Subcommittee of the Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Committee. Committee members and Mr. White had a discussion regarding the experiences the committee and residents of the Town of Wellesley have had in conjunction with the public walking trails. Focus of discussion included:
 - a. Funding for development and maintenance – Mr. White explained that the committee of eight (8) people received funds from the town budget. This covers the costs of signs, trail maps and map houses.
 - b. Trail maintenance and upkeep by committee and volunteers – The committee conducts monthly walks of each trail for maintenance and cleaning. Additionally they conduct annual pruning excursions
 - c. Surface and construction (i.e. materials used, width of trails) – the committee is in the process of reviewing materials for use on some paths. Included in this review are crushed/run and hard packed dirt. During the spring the committee conducted a test of the use on stabilizer vs non-stabilizer around Milton pond.
 - d. Types of trails- the trails in Wellesley include woodland paths, paths that follow the aqua ducts and the Fuller Brook path. The paths tend to be eight (8) feet at the widest points and six (6) feet wide at the most narrow. The paths travel through residential and commercial areas.
 - e. Nuisance issues

- i. Trash – trash receptacles are placed at the ends of the paths. DPW empties the trash bins. Mr. White did not believe that there was an issue with trash on the paths.
 - ii. Dogs – Wellesley allows dog walking on the paths. The regulations call for no more than three (3) dogs per person and dogs must be under voice control. This follows the Wellesley town leash law. Plastic bags for cleaning up after dogs are provided at some map houses.
 - iii. Trespassing on abutting private property – Mr. White was not aware of any issues with trespassing on private properties abutting the trails. They are in the process of placing boundary markers on certain trails to deal with encroachment on the trail by abutting properties.
 - iv. Parking – Mr. White did not know of any issues regarding parking by individuals using the paths.
 - v. Nighttime activity – the paths are closed in the evening. The only issues he is aware of occurs with people gathering at the Waban arches on the Newton border
 - f. Public safety issues
 - g. Types of use of trails –Mr. White said that the use of trails consists of running, walking, biking, baby carriages, dog walking.
 - h. Connecting trails with recreational paths in neighboring towns – the committee encourages the connecting of trails with those in neighboring towns. Mr. White sees it as an added benefit to the trail system and knows of no negative impact from this.
3. Kate Cannie provided an update regarding email notification sign-up. Bill Clark confirmed that the email list of individuals receiving notifications of committee meetings and updates is current. Committee discussed frequency of emails and content. Additional email addresses gathered at informal meetings will be added to list.

4. Kate Cannie and Elaine Rosenberg provided update on informal meetings held on Thursday September 27th and Tuesday October 2nd. Two people attended the meeting on 09-27-12 and eleven people attended the meeting on the 2nd. The third of the series of meetings will be conducted on Saturday October 13th. Elaine and Kate will prepare a spreadsheet of issues, comments and concerns for the committees review.
5. Committee expressed interest in conducting a walk of the trail bed this fall in order to familiarize all committee members with the geography and terrain. Dates to be proposed at next meeting.
6. Actions:
 - a. Mark Howe and Tim Holiner to meet with Weston & Sampson for exploration of Dover-specific needs.
 - b. Matt Schmid will obtain more information on specifics of comparative towns' paths (length, connections) to aid in refining a list of about twelve communities.
 - c. Carol Lisbon to report on Town Counsel review of MBTA lease and insurance needs
 - d. Kate Cannie and Elaine Rosenberg to present information gathered from informal meetings
 - e. Mary McLaughlin to continue exploring feasibility of an active "Friends of" organization with the goal of creating a core group to assume responsibility for developing a viable organization
 - f. Plans for walk of the Dover rail bed to be coordinated
 - g. An RDA to ConCom will be required at some point in the future
7. Next meetings: 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11 – Open Hearing 12/18

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Cannie