



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Monday January 29, 2024 (*original 1/16 meeting postponed due to weather*)

Northborough Trails Committee

Northborough Police Station Meeting Room

Attendees: Bob Mihalek, Brian Belfer, Bern Krafsig, Bill Cobb, Yuhi Kashii, Masa Kashii, Victor Jacek, Ginny Lemmerman, Jeanne Cahill

7:02 p.m. - Meeting opened by Bob Mihalek

- 1) Bob mentioned he has sent the 2024 agendas to the town clerk for posting on the website
- 2) Jeanne Cahill, a new attendee of the meeting, introduced herself and discussed some of her interests including sustainability and invasives. We went around the room and did introductions and Bob gave some brief Northborough Trail Committee history.
- 3) Brian presented his proposal for the Mount Pisgah Lyman Road bridge project. This project involves multiple bridge repairs / replacements at the beginning of the trail leaving the Lyman Road trailhead of Mount Pisgah. Due to where this is situated, this will be a combined effort between NTC, Northborough ConComm, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Berlin Conservation Commission, and the Blackstone Valley Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association. The committee discussed the proposal and Bob also reviewed some history of the locale. After the discussion, Bill made a motion to move forward and proceed to the next step of the proposal. Bern seconded. A unanimous vote approved
- 4) We discussed the timing of the various larger bridge projects. The Mount Pisgah project is targeted for Spring 2024. The Birdsong trail bog bridge project will be targeted for Summer 2024, and the project to repair the floating bridge in the Cold Harbor trail would be targeted for Fall 2024.
- 5) We discussed other smaller bridge projects that would be done on an ad-hoc basis when time permits. These included the first bridge on the Green Street trail and a few other bridges on Edmund Hill. We also discussed the flooded area on Old Farm where the bridge was submerged during high water. Recently Brian and Bill had moved the bridge to a slightly higher spot and moved ricks and logs to help with the mud. The ultimate fix will be a longer span bridge. This project has yet to be planned.
- 6) Brian started a discussion on general invasives. We discussed our limited dealing with invasives on the lands that we maintain trails on. Jeanne contributed her vast knowledge on the topic. She also suggested some possible info sessions on trails and invasives in the future.
- 7) We discussed the last update we had on the Aqueduct project. There was a general discussion on the process to get to a completed product and open a trail over it. Our last status was that a firm was contracted to assess what is needed for an implementation phase. Nobody had any further detail. Bill agreed to contact Vinny Vignaly to see if we could get an update.
- 8) Jeanne brought up that there is a lot of interest in the aqueduct project and its importance to projects like the downtown viability project. She also suggested a possible info update hike to the aqueduct once there is a plan.
- 9) We discussed the Forestry Plan for Edmund Hill and Mount Pisgah. Bill shared the latest status that Vinny Vignaly shared which was that the draft contract is being reviewed by the Town Administrator and Town Counsel, but is not yet finalized. As a result, Ms. Wigmore would not be able to attend the January NTC meeting.

- 10) Bill gave an update on the trail map update effort. He had given a bunch of updates to the town GIS staff and they are working on those updates. He still owes them some further updates and GPS tracks.
- 11) Ginny brought up the possibility of using the Edmund Hill water tank right-of-way for a possible aqueduct to Edmund hill connector. We discussed and looked at the town GIS to see if there is anything there to consider.
- 12) Brian gave an update on the 432 Whitney Street parcel. The Conservation Commission sent a memo to the Select Board recommending this acquisition. Ginny and Jeanne shared their experience walking it recently. Brian also shared what he knew about it. There was general discussion about what could be done with the parcel from a trails perspective. Jeanne expressed interest in walking the property along with anyone else that was interested before the purchase.
- 13) Bill made a motion to approve the November minutes, Ginny seconded. A unanimous vote approved the minutes.

Brian made a motion to adjourn at 8:27p, Bob seconded. A unanimous vote approved.

Adjourn at 8:27 pm.