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By KWilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 2:39 pm, Mar 27, 2024

## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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**Monday** February 20, 2024

Northborough Trails Committee

*Northborough Police Station Meeting Room*

***Attendees: Bob Mihalek, Brian Belfer, Bern Krafsig, Bill Cobb, Victor Jacek,  
Janet Cason, Kevin Foy, Kay Hoover***

7:04 p.m. - Meeting opened by Bob Mihalek

- 1) Bill confirmed to Bob that the town website still needs NTC agendas posted for the rest of 2024. Bob will handle.
- 2) Brian made a motion to approve the January minutes, Bill seconded. A unanimous vote approved the minutes.
- 3) Bob mentioned he was on the Berlin side of Mount Pisgah recently and found numerous down trees. He suggested we check with Berlin Conservation to see if they need some assistance with tree removal. Bob to reach out to them.
- 4) Bern mentioned he found a down tree on the trail around Lake Chauncy in Westborough, but this is outside of scope for NTC.
- 5) Brian gave an update on the progress of the Mount Pisgah bridge project on Lyman Road.
  - a. He did an informal presentation of the project to ConCom at their last meeting.
  - b. The project will require DEP paperwork (WPA Form 1)
  - c. Berlin Conservation will need to approve as well as Northborough ConCom
  - d. Will need to seek permission to drop materials in the Lyman Road parking lot
  - e. Will formally present to ConCom at the March or April meeting
  - f. Approximate budget is \$2,500.00. Blackstone NEMBA plans to provide \$1,200.00 toward project, but this needs to be confirmed. The remainder will come out of the standard NTC budget.
  - g. There is some discussion in the process regarding bikes being allowed through that section. No determination is made yet on this point.
  - h. Helical Piles will be used to anchor a portion of the bridging in this project.
- 6) Bill gave an update on the effort to install more trail signs at Mount Pisgah.
  - a. He proposed signs at the below locations:
    - i. Mentzer - at parking lot
    - ii. Howard Brook - At Sparrow and Howard Brook
    - iii. Howard Brook - At Howard Brook and Johnson
    - iv. South Overlook - At Berlin Road and South Overlook
    - v. South Overlook - At South Overlook summit
    - vi. Tyler - At South Overlook and Tyler
    - vii. Sparrow - At South Overlook summit
    - viii. The short spur leaving south from the South Overlook needs a sign (no name)
  - b. The committee agreed with all signs proposed with the exception of the last "no name" trail. We decided to research further to see if a proper name could be determined.
  - c. Brian agreed to take the signs to our sign maker once we decide on a name for the "no name" trail.
  - d. Bill made a motion to allocate \$200.00 from NTC funds to cover the sign creation. Brian seconded. A unanimous vote passes the measure.

- 7) Bill brought up some blazing needs at Mount Pisgah, either due to old blazing is worn out or no blazing is present at all. The below was agreed to:
  - a. Johnson trail - blaze YELLOW
  - b. Loop trail - blaze RED
  - c. Sparrow - blaze WHITE (only after a re-route is completed)
- 8) Bill provided an update on the Edmund Hill/Mount Pisgah Forest plan as provided by Vinny Vignaly (Conservation Agent). Summary below:
  - a. We continue to answer questions from Wigmore Forest Management and provide answers about the contract insurances and liabilities. At this point, we are waiting the next draft of a contract.
- 9) We discussed an update on the Aqueduct project as provided by Laurie Connors (Planning Director). Summary below:
  - a. The progress on the bridge project has been stalled for many months due to the inability to obtain an updated 8M permit and permission from MWRA to access the structure to complete the survey of existing conditions. We have recently received confirmation that our request for amended language enabling access has made it to the legal department. We hope to hear something soon.

Brian suggested that we regularly check in on this project now that there is movement. Bob said he would also email the town administrator about the project just for general awareness.
- 10) Kay Hoover brought up a possible project she is proposing as a Junior Womens Club member. There is discussion about cleaning up all of the brush and grass clippings that have been dumped at the end of Meadowbrook Road. This is also an NTC trailhead for Edmund Hill Woods. Kay was asking about any process that would need to be followed to make this project happen. There was general discussion about the brush and drainage issues that trailhead has, along with some possible solutions. Bill will take the question to Vinny Vignaly.
- 11) Janet Cason brought up a few announcements that she is involved in for general awareness:
  - a. Public walking tour and presentation by "Org for Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers" on Friday 2/23/2024. This had been previously posted on the Northborough Trail Travelers Facebook Group.
  - b. Series of walking tours with Sudbury Valley Trustees member Kristin O'Brien on April 6<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided to NTC so they can post it in the Northborough Trail Travelers Facebook Group.
- 12) Brian brought up the need for a new Boy Scout liaison. This function was previously handled by Craig Cox. We have many projects this year and it would be a missed opportunity to not have them involved as they have in past years. Until a volunteer comes forward, Bob volunteered to at least reach out to the scout masters to make them aware of our open projects.
- 13) Brian reported that the drainage under the first bridge on the Old Farm trail coming from Boundary seems to have stabilized. Additionally, he said he scouted out a possible route from the new dog park location over to the Old Farm trail.

Brian made a motion to adjourn at 8:40p, Bill seconded. A unanimous vote approved.

Adjourn at 8:40 pm.