



RECEIVED

By KWilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 8:18 am, Apr 17, 2024

TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5019 • 508-393-6996 Fax

Monday March 18, 2024

Northborough Trails Committee

Northborough Police Station Meeting Room

Attendees: Bob Mihalek, Leon Khoo, Arnold Oyola, Brian Belfer, Bill Cobb, Andrew Benotti, Ginny Lemmerman, Danielle Lau, Russ Thompson, Dennis Lindenberg, Masa Kashii, Keith Lebel, Sherral Devine, Paul Middleton, Janet Cason, Jim Stein

7:01 p.m. - Meeting opened by Bob Mihalek

- 1) Bill made a motion to approve the February minutes, Bob seconded. A unanimous vote approved the minutes.
- 2) Ginny asked about ways the committee does announcements for various activities. Brian brought up that we primarily announce in the Northborough Trail Travelers Facebook group and via email to committee members. Additionally, committee members use the Slack application, but mainly for internal maintenance items.
- 3) It was brought up that there are still areas of Mount Pisgah where the trails are not well marked, causing some folks to get lost. Brian and Bill discussed the committees progress of getting new signs hung to fill in some of those gaps. A new batch of signs are on order primarily targeting the south summit area.
- 4) Arnold Oyola opened up a discussion about possible trail projects that Northborough Boy Scout Troop 1 can help with. Brian mentioned that there are many options. Arnold turned the conversation over to Leon.
 - a. Leon Khoo introduced himself and proposed a partnership with the committee for an Eagle project.
 - b. Brian and other members offered a few options for a project:
 - i. Old Farm trail - bridge replacement, 2nd bridge in from Boundary Street.
 - ii. Birdsong trail - bridge replacement/extension on north end of trail by river.
 - c. Leon also proposed to dedicate the new bridge to Craig Cox, former Trails Committee member who passed away last year.
 - i. The committee was in agreement with this idea. Bob made a motion to dedicate the new bridge as the "Craig Cox Memorial Bridge". Brian seconded. A unanimous vote approved the motion.
 - d. Bob discussed some past scout projects and how they generally work with the committee. Others familiar with these also shared their experiences.
 - e. Leon agreed to go out and look at both locations and let the committee know at the April meeting if either of the bridge projects were of interest.
- 5) Danielle Lau, co-leader for the 1st Grade Daisy Girl Scout troop in Northborough, brought up a proposal for her troop to help out with trail markers on the Assabet Park trail. The troop had been up there last year and noticed that trail was hard to follow in some areas. There was discussion about possibly hanging wooden cutouts of animals that the troop could paint. These would be nailed on the trees that have blazes on them. This had been used on at least one other trail in the past. There was general agreement that we would pursue the idea. Bill volunteered to be the point of contact and would share with Danielle an example of the cutouts to see if they could move forward with them.

- 6) There was a general discussion about leaf blowing trails. Brian and Bob discussed the balance of keeping leaves on the trails versus removing them.
- 7) Ginny brought up a query she received from a member of the Cultural Council. There is interest in trying to make one of the Northborough trails an "Arts in the woods" trail. There was a general discussion about which trails would fit this need. It was agreed that the Watson Park trail would be offered as a possible option for them. Jim Stein volunteered to be the point of contact for this and will possibly do a walk through.
- 8) Ginny reviewed the Edmund Hill SVT program scheduled for April 6. It was also brought up that there is now a volunteer cleanup activity going on after the program at the Meadowbrook Road trailhead.
- 9) Bill gave an update on trail blazing at Mount Pisgah. The Johnson trail and Loop trail have now been re-blazed.
- 10) Brian gave an update on our Lyman Road bridge replacement project at Mount Pisgah.
 - a. The Northborough wetland RDA previously filed came back as "no impact".
 - b. Berin indicated they want their own wetland RDA filed
 - c. Brian and Vinny Vignaly will attend the Berin ConCom meeting on 3/20 to discuss the project.
- 11) The committee received an email that the mailboxes at the trailheads no longer have maps in them. This was a decision last August to no longer print maps and replace them with QR codes. We agreed that we should remove the mailboxes. Rus Thompson brought up the idea that this removal type of work could be offered as volunteer hours to those that need them.
- 12) Bill gave an update on the map update project. All map data (except for Cedar Hill) has been turned over to the town GIS engineer recently with the hopes that map updating can begin.
- 13) The committee did not have an update on the Forestry Plan for Edmund Hill / Mount Pisgah.
- 14) There was a query about the minimum width of NTC bridges. It was discussed that our new minimum width is 36".
- 15) Brian had an update on the new dog park on Boundary Street. He indicated that he walked the area recently and remarked:
 - a. Once the site is better defined, we will cut a trail from it to the Old Farm trail
 - b. Once the parking lot is defined, we will create a walking path between it and the Old Farm trailhead parking lot.
- 16) Dennis brought up the fact that the gravel work we did 2 years ago at the Old Farm trail on the Route 20 side may need some refreshing.
 - a. There was a discussion about how to refresh this. We can drop gravel at the trailhead and move it in with volunteers.
 - b. Sherral made a motion to fund 2 yards of gravel for use to refresh the Old Farm trail on the Route 20 side. Jim seconded. A unanimous vote approved.
- 17) Bob Mihalek, who has been chairman of the Northborough Trails Committee for many years, announced he is stepping down as chair. Bob didn't feel he could dedicate enough time to the position given his evolving job situation.
 - a. Bob still plans to be on the committee and assist with maintenance and projects
 - b. Bob recommended Brian Belfer as a replacement.
 - c. Brian polled all committee members to see if anyone else was interested in the chair position. There was no other interest.
 - d. Bob made a motion to appoint Brian Belfer as new chair of the committee. Bill seconded. The vote passed unanimously.
- 18) Brian made a motion to adjourn at 8:48p, Bob seconded. A unanimous vote approved.

Adjourn at 8:48 pm.