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By KWilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 10:24 am, May 21, 2024

## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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**Monday** April 16, 2024

Northborough Trails Committee

*Northborough Police Station Meeting Room*

***Attendees: Bob Mihalek, Brian Belfer, Lou Digilio, Bern Krafzig, Bill Cobb, Dennis Lindenberg, Victor Jacek, Janet Cason, Kay Hoover, Jim Stein***

7:05 p.m. - Meeting opened by Brian Belfer

- 1) Bill made a motion to approve the March minutes, Bern seconded. A unanimous vote approved the minutes.
- 2) Brian Belfer introduced himself as the new chairman of the committee and that this is his first meeting as the chair. Bob Mihalek shared some thoughts as outgoing chairman indicating he was chair since 2009. Then we went around the room and did introductions for the remainder of the attendees.
- 3) There was a discussion about Bill having been the committee's secretary for quite some time, and that it should be made official. Bob made a motion to officially make Bill Cobb the secretary of the trails committee. Bern seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.
- 4) Brian brought up the topic of any maintenance needs. He mentioned that there was a Trail Forks report about a down tree up at Mount Pisgah, but it was located on the Berlin side. Bill brought up that there was a down tree reported on the Birdsong trail, and that he removed it before the meeting.
- 5) Dennis brought up the upcoming Old Farm trail workday scheduled for Saturday 4/20 and there was a conversation about logistics. Brian indicated that a section of the trailhead parking area will be coned off 4/17 to mark a drop spot for the 2 yards of stone that will be delivered on 4/19.
- 6) Brian asked about any equipment updates.
  - a. Bob indicated that the large mower is still not running and needs repair. Bob will be calling Boston Lawnmower to see if they can pick up the mower and take it away for repair. If they cannot pick it up, we will find a way to get it in the trailer and drive it over.
  - b. Bill said that we can survive with the push mowers and Billy Goat mower for now.
  - c. Bob asked if we received the Stihl MS192t chainsaw back from Craig Cox's estate. Brian indicated no and that he needs to follow-up on it again.
  - d. Brian brought up the desire to create a master equipment list.
  - e. Bill asked Bob to check to see if he has the KM130 Kombi powerhead at his house. He will be checking.
- 7) Kay Hoover was given the floor and gave a presentation on the results of their 4/6 workday up at Edmund Hill.
  - a. 25 volunteers joined the effort
  - b. The work was to remove invasive species along the trail and to perform a cleanup of the Meadowbrook Road trailhead.
  - c. At the Meadowbrook trailhead, the group removed piles of yard waste and Christmas trees and made a pile for Northborough DPW to pick up that week.
  - d. The group remediated English Ivy, Barberry, and Burning bush invasives along the trail.
  - e. Certificates of Participation were given to volunteers at the end of the work day.

- f. 50 educational brochures about Yard Waste and Grass Clippings were handed out throughout the neighborhood.
  - g. The cost of the project was \$0
  - h. Kay brought the message that the Northborough Junior Women's Club wants to thank the committee for their help with this project. Special mention of thanks was also given to Conservation Agent Vinny Vignaly and Director of Public Works Scott Charpentier for their help in getting the waste dumped and help creating some educational brochures for the neighborhood.
  - i. This project was a joint involvement of the following groups:
    - i. Northborough Junior Women's Club
    - ii. Sustainable Northborough
    - iii. Northborough Trails Committee
    - iv. Boy Scout Troop 101 of Northborough
    - v. Northborough Garden Club
- 8) Kay also gave an update on some future upcoming Sustainable Northborough events:
    - a. 5/25 10A-Noon - Edmund Hill Meadowbrook Road invasives cleanup
    - b. June (date/time TBD) - Edmund Hill Meadowbrook Road invasives cleanup
    - c. September (date/time TBD) - River Cleanup
    - d. October (date/time TBD) - Edmund Hill Meadowbrook Road invasives cleanup
  - 9) Brian brought up other info about the Meadowbrook Road trailhead
    - a. The DPW will be installing a "NO DUMPING" sign there
    - b. There will be a future project to rehab this trailhead
  - 10) Brian reported that he and Vinny Vignaly did a recent site visit to the rear of the Senior Center where construction of the new ADA trail was underway. He reported that things were looking good. He also mentioned that this entrance to the Edmund Hill trail system was officially closed while construction was ongoing. Users should enter via one of the other trailheads. He also mentioned that they walked the proposed Round Rock extension trail which is flagged currently. He will seek approval in the future.
  - 11) Brian gave an update on the Boy Scout Eagle Project that was proposed in our March meeting. Leon Khoo, the scout that is proposing the project, looked at several options for projects and contacted Brian that he may be interested in one of the Birdsong Trail bridge projects. Brian will contact Leon and walk out to the area and discuss.
  - 12) Brian reiterated our desire to remove the mailboxes that used to hold maps at our trailheads. Discussed the need for a volunteer to take this on and to hang replacement QR codes. Dennis led a discussion about what was required and where to dispose of them. Bill said that they could be placed in the temporary trash pile next to the trail shed.
  - 13) Brian provided an update on the Mount Pisgah bridge project at Lyman Road. The project is approved and just needs scheduling.
  - 14) Brian brought up the new Dog Park to be constructed on Boundary Street. There was a general discussion about the details of its construction and a desire to create 2 new trails connecting this park with the Old Farm trail system. Bill made a motion to propose the concept of 2 new trails connecting the new Boundary Street Dog park to the Old Farm Trail system. Trail #1 would be a connector trail connecting the Dog Park parking lot to the Old Farm trailhead parking lot. Trail #2 would be from the rear of the park connecting to the Old Farm trail. Bern seconded. A unanimous vote approved the motion. Brian will follow the construction and will propose these when complete.
  - 15) Kay asked if the new brochure her group made for their cleanup day could be posted on our website. Brian offered to post it in our Facebook group and will contact the town clerk about posting it on the trails section of the town website.
  - 16) Bill gave an update on the Assabet Hill trail Girl Scout project proposed back in the March meeting. Wooden animal cutouts were painted by the scouts and we will meet them at the end of April to nail them up on the trees. Bill said he paint-blazed this trail on 4/15 in preparation for this project.
  - 17) Brian reminded the attendees of Town Meeting on 4/22. One related item up for a vote was the acquisition of the 432 Whitney Street property. Trails are proposed for this land if purchased.

- 18) Jim gave an update about the “Arts in the Woods” Cultural Council project. The Watson Park trail was offered as a potential trail for this activity. Jim did a walkthrough with a Cultural Council member. They were going to bring back what was found to the Cultural Council and let Jim know next steps.
- 19) Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:27p, Bob seconded. A unanimous vote approved.

Adjourn at 8:27 pm.