

July 28, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting

Present: Lydia Adelson, Rob Harris, Jeanne Harris, Will Harris, Nancy Buker, Hank Laidlaw, Ann Keilty, Gary Keilty, Rob Peale, Karen Peterson

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the Minutes of the June 23, 2015 meeting made by Lydia Adelson, seconded by Rob Harris. Approved.

Officer Nominations: Gary Keilty for Chair. Approved. Hank Laidlaw for Vice Chair. Approved.

Milt Wright Correspondence: Ann Keilty reported on a letter from Milt Wright to Gary Keilty. Mr. Wright expressed his appreciation for all the member's efforts to build and maintain the Town trails.

Ann Keilty also described some of Mr. Wright's background-He was a Charter Member of the Trails Committee and heavily involved with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

Heritage Days: There was discussion on how best to be involved. Should the Trails Committee coordinate with the History Walk which will use the Mill Stream Path and some of the sidewalk? Also, is there interest in staffing a Trails promotion booth during one of the other popular events? There was consensus on having a booth at the beach and on joining the History walk.

Trail maintenance: Jeanne Harris talked about the possibility of having evening work projects. It is hoped this would give opportunities to those volunteers who normally work during the day.

A resident of the Fairgrounds development, Patrick Westbury, has expressed an interest in doing some trail maintenance.

Hank Laidlaw reported on the Herculean efforts of Lydia Adelson, John Perry and Marianne Perry to remove the large pile of leaves behind the Union Meeting House.

Mill Stream Pathway: Will Harris stated he met with the Select Board about the trail name and was successful in having it called the Mill Stream Pathway. He was also informed second-hand of a complaint from an individual who had difficulty using it with a cane. According to Mr. Harris, the new trail is used frequently and most are content with it. One resident, John Knox, has expressed a number of concerns about it and has been told to direct his concerns to the Select Board.

Select Board Liaison Policy: Gary Keilty reported on the discussion held during the July 27, 2015 Select Board meeting. The current Board is reviewing the policy and has asked Committee and Board Chairs to comment. Perhaps the policy no longer serves a useful purpose to enhance communications.

Trail Signs, Maps and T-shirts: Ann Keilty described there have been lots of positive compliments about the trail signs. Conservation Commission members Jerry Bley and Tim Sniffen, in particular, did a great job with their installation.

New trail maps are published and available at the Town Office.

The t-shirts have been popular and thirty one have been ordered so far.

McDougald Trail: Hank Laidlaw met with Mark Birtwell to examine the erosion situation with the ditching. It will be difficult to use rip-rap because of the steep slopes present. Mr. Birtwell suggested installing a French drain and covering it with bluestone plus possibly extending the length of the drainage ditch. Hank reported that the existing drainage is working to keep the water off the trail.

Old Landfill Visit: Hank Laidlaw went with Mark Birtwell and stated one issue is where to locate the entrance gate. Also, there will be a need to park up to nine vehicles.

There was some discussion on how to move and secure the existing gates.

Whether any restrictions are in place by the DEP regarding use of the former landfill for trails was discussed. Rob Peale will pursue this.

Gary Keilty suggested having another walk of the area to help finalize possible trail routes.

Community Pathway: Gary Keilty described the recent tree donation made by Marianne and John Perry that has been planted there.

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Water District Property on Church Road: Gary Keilty spoke with trustee Ed Dodge, who stated a trail may be possible along the Bill Bourret Drive, which is located across from the Fairgrounds entrance and parking area.

Hillier Flower Garden in Monmouth: This is a private garden and trails area featuring native plant landscaping that Bob Bittar wants to replicate on his property near the Millstream dam. It was decided that pursuing such an endeavor would be more in line with the Conservation Commission than the Trails Committee because the focus would be more scenic development than trails planning.

Trails Committee Openings: Greg Durgin has joined yet was unable to attend this meeting. Two openings remain for the memberships previously held by Romaine Turyn and Chris Sammons.

Other: Nancy Buker inquired if the Trails Committee Minutes are being forwarded to the Select Board and was informed that they are.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peterson, Secretary