

TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES 10/8/19

Members attending: Laurie Thompson, John Limanek, David Ziegelman, Stephany Hasse, guests John Beale, Bill Regan

Minutes submitted by David Ziegelman

Laurie reviewed the history of Trails in Charlotte including goals, Pease Mountain, Ploof Lane, Town Link Trail and Village Loop trails. Reviewed grant work, trail building, scoping, fundraising, maintenance.

State Park update - Laurie. Next section of town link trail has been staked out based on very careful scoping by Jim Donovan last year with multiple public meetings and site visits with an emphasis on preserving trees and providing a safe, pleasant route. Several Town residents have volunteered to complete the section for cost of materials and fuel only, estimated at \$30,000 rather than up to \$100,000 if taken to bid. Trails committee members will visit the site with the Selectboard on Oct 14th. Mark Dillenbeck Charlotte Tree Warden needs to warn 15 days in advance of meeting due to the need to remove 5 trees for the trail. An amendment to our trails Act 250 permit needs to be signed.

Stephany reviewed Trails annual fundraising letter for review. We discussed several edits. Will need to be delivered to the printer by 11/18. Suggested website and email be included on our communications.

Kiosk - build over winter - Ethan obtained funding \$250 for kiosk at the beginning of the trail at the west end of trail near Mount Philo. Discussion about parking, location of easements.

October 28th - presentation in front of the Selectboard 5 year plan and funding request. Committee members are asked to attend.

Financial report - John. \$69,444 in the reserve fund. Operating budget \$1500, we have spent \$544 thus far in this fiscal year since July.

Trails work day on 9/22/19 - Extensive work on the Village Loop trail from the Flea Market to the Burns property, with wood chips, trail clearing and 3 small bridges placed. The hardworking crew included Laurie, Margaret, John L and David. With special thanks to Mike Russell, Richard Henrickson and John Quinney.

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Trails survey on Front Porch Forum - 180 people responded. 25% use the Town Link trail weekly, 18% monthly, 12% occasional. How do you get on the trail - multiple starting points. Mode of use - Walking, biking, walking the dog. 81% want the Charlotte town trail to extend to Mt Philo while 19% oppose. In the free text comment section - 70 comments 62 were very positive.

Laurie - will be stepping down as co-chair of trails in December 2019, continuing as a member. We expressed our gratitude to Laurie for her outstanding accomplishments and tireless efforts as Trails co-chair over the last 3 years.

Next meeting - November 12, 2019