

Charlotte Trails Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes -- April 21, 2020

Attending: Laurie Thompson, Ethan McLaughlin, William Regan, Larry Sommers (minutes taker), Margaret Russell, Stephany Hasse, David Zegelman, Ajat Tariyal, John Limanek, Carrie Spears (Select Board member), Frank Tenney (Select Board member).

Town Budget Vote Discussion:

New date for voting not confirmed as of this date, although Frank shared that June 23 was a tentative date. Stephany will contact Mary Mead to inquire about absentee voting process as the Committee wants to be out front of voting date to encourage participation.

Frank conveyed the Select Board is looking to cut the current budget by 5% through fiscal year end and that similar budgets cuts will likely be considered for new budget year commencing July 1, 2020. Some discussion on impact to Trails annual budget.

Once voting date is set, Committee will reengage promotional efforts in support of Town Link Trail article funding and will schedule a special meeting to discuss campaign and make assignments. Some discussion on clarifying funding rationale and reinforcing TLT's positive benefits for Charlotte citizens.

On a related note, David reported that while painting the underpass recently he encountered 38 people using the trail in a 45-minute period. Joe Ingram is submitting his recent supportive FPF post to Charlotte News to run as an article.

State Park Road Trail RFP:

Laurie has been hard at work finalizing all details for RFP for contractor selection. With final review by committee members, RFP will be submitted to Dean for Select Board review at April 27 meeting. Select Board must approve. Adequate funds are available in the Reserve Fund to complete proposed work.

Deadline for RFP submittals is June 1 with work being completed by October 31, 2020, barring any Covid-19 related delays.

Charlotte Trails Workdays:

Currently June 7 at 8:30 AM and June 24 at 5:30 PM are scheduled for Committee workdays. Prior to then, Committee members have volunteered to work solo or with one other person following appropriate social distancing to do maintenance on a variety of town-wide trails. Worklist to be circulated.

Margaret led discussion on working the Mack Farm Easement section with goal of basic maintenance, making walkable, and applying minimal signage this summer. Ajat will coordinate with Robert Mack to address any concerns.

Next Charlotte Trails Committee meeting: Tuesday, May 19. David will chair meeting.