

Charlotte Trails Committee
Meeting Notes for January 27, 2020.

- Members attending: Margaret Russell, Laurie Thompson, Stephany Hasse, John Limanek, Ethan McLaughlin, Larry Sommers, Ajat Tariyal, David Ziegleman, Bill Regan.
- Notes submitted by Bill Regan.

The meeting focused on Trails Committee preparations for the March 3, 2020 Town Meeting. Ethan led the discussion by offering a list of suggestions for advancing the public's understanding of the Trails Committee's work, the reasons behind its financial ask at Town Meeting, and how such funds, if approved by the voters, would be spent.

This led to a wide-ranging conversation about how to develop concise and consistent Trails Committee messaging in the lead-up to Town Meeting and for Ethan and Ajat to deploy during their presentation on March 3. There was consensus on presenting the vision for a complete Town Link Trail from Mt. Philo to the Charlotte Town Beach so voters could understand the role of this year's financial ask in the overall Town Link Trail project. At the same time, we agreed that the Trails Committee will explain how the funding numbers were arrived at, how private contributions supplement tax-payers funds, how the trail will continue to be built in increments as funds allow, and how a new interpretation of existing state legislation requires us to ask the voters annually for funds rather than asking for a lump-sum to complete the trail in its entirety.

We clarified the voting process for the Trails Committee's article on the Town Meeting ballot.

The meeting concluded with the assignment of specific communications tasks to individual Trails Committee members, including articles in local papers, submissions on Front Porch Forum, signs and fliers, Facebook postings, and outreach to Trails Committee donors and other supporters. Trails Committee members divvied up writing thank-you notes for those who contributed financially in our latest fundraising campaign.

The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for February 10th.