MONDAY
July 19, 2021
Northborough Trails Committee
at Police Station Training Room in person

Minutes
Attendees: Brian Belfer, Jeff Cayer, Craig Cox, Jim Stein (7:27pm) George Curtis, Bill Cobb

7:00 pm Open Meeting-general discussion and introduction for visitors
Brian Belfer chaired the meeting, opened the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Craig Cox made a motion, Brian Belfer seconded and all voted by roll call in favor of accepting the minutes as written.

Trail topics- damage reports, maintenance, new trail proposals.

Maintenance
Bill discussed the clearing of the High Grass trail. Only a 3rd is cleared due to excessive flooding. Once it dries out, the remainder can be cleared. Also, a group of 3 downed trees were removed from the Edmund Hill trail on 7/15.

Brian brought up that a previously reported fallen tree on Bird Song may not have been cleared. Jeff Cayer agreed to walk it and report back if it is still in need of removal.

Brian brought up a Facebook discussion about bikes and mud ruts on the Mentzer trail. This was acknowledged as a known issue in that spot and agreed to go out and look at the possibility of moving some flat rocks into the problem area.

Equipment Updates
Craig reported that his last check on some equipment he had taken out of the shed was that the Honda trimmer runs fine but the 2 chainsaws (Stihl and Craftsman) would not start. Brian indicated he would let Bob know.

Brian said he was looking into a solar powered light and 120-volt power station for the equipment shed. He said he will have the details and recommendation at the next meeting.

New Projects

Approved
8/16/2021
Mia had submitted the following Stirrup Brook bridge update by email before the meeting. Brian read the update. – “I submitted what is hopefully the final piece of the building permit application for the bridge repairs. I will follow up with the Building Inspector daily to try to finalize the permit and get the scouts working.”

Jeff gave his update on the Stirrup Brook bridge projects – He reports that all waivers have been signed by all participants. The permit was expected to be issued on 7/19 but no word has come down yet. Jeff expects to order the lumber on 7/20. Now that most items are in place, he will set dates for the work soon. Jeff did mention that bridges will have ramps to allow better bike access. Jeff was going to let the members know when dates for work have been chosen and also if he needs assistance in clearing brush / growth out of the work areas prior to the work commencing.

Brian gave an update on the Sliding Boulders trail on Edmund Hill. The trail is largely laid out, but needs some final work and GPS work. He said that over the coming weeks he was going to get back up there to continue the work.

Discussion:

Mia had submitted the following Watson Park update by email before the meeting. Brian read the update. – “I’m working with the MA Fish & Wildlife Boating Access Board on cost sharing for the paving for Watson Park. Also, we finally have a group of volunteer gardeners who have met at Watson Park and have begun maintenance of the pollinator garden. They are putting together a plan to expand the garden, as well.”

Mia had submitted the following National Grid update by email before the meeting. Brian read the update followed by a short discussion – “There is room in the right-of-way to move the utilities above the Assabet River stone arch bridge and they will be getting us an engineering cost estimate soon. Hopefully I will have that cost for your August meeting to vote to apply for funding (depends on how much it cost as to how we apply.)”

George stated that he has completed the Applefest Street Fair application for the NTC booth. Applefest this year will be 9/18. The requested booth will be a tent booth and the cost is $110.00. He had requested a location near the street. Brian had suggested that if SVT and other related organizations are going to also be in the street fair, it would make sense if NTC would be located next to them. George agreed to inquire about this.

Jim did a show and tell about a trip he made to the Weston Aqueduct. He showed some interesting pictures of a custom steel bridge built over a large pipe over the Sudbury River.

The next standing meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 16 at 7pm.

8:13 pm Craig made a motion to adjourn, Brian seconded, and all voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn the meeting.