



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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TUESDAY February 20, 2018
Northborough Trails Committee
Police Station Meeting Room

Minutes

***Attendees: Bob Mihalek, Jim Stein, Sherral Devine, Don Burn
(Westborough Conservation), Arnold Oyola, Mateo Oyola***

7:00 p.m. Bob opened the meeting.

Maintenance topics & updates:

- Apparently a tree has fallen across one of the trails in the MassWildlife area of the Mt. Pisgah trail network. Due to the maintenance restrictions placed on all MassWildlife trails by the State, no further action will be taken to remove this tree.

New Projects/updates:

- Kiosks built by Gamache Construction are almost ready for installation. One kiosk will be placed at the Green Acres parking lot which serves the newly named Schunder Field and adjoining trails. The second kiosk is destined for installation at Edmund Hill Woods to replace the one vandalized in 2016. A consensus could not be reached on the placement of the third kiosk, so that decision has been postponed one month.

Other topics to discuss:

- Don Burn discussed several opportunities for hikes on June 2nd, which is National Trails Day. The idea behind the hikes is to raise awareness of the Boston-Worcester Air Line Trolley (BWALT) that Mr. Burn has championed for over a decade. Don elaborated on the significant progress that has been made with respect to trail easements and enhanced connectivity. The BWALT trail could connect with the Northborough Trail network via an easement behind the shops at Northborough Crossing and also further east via a spur trail leading towards the Charm Bracelet and Chauncy Lake. The connection using the easement behind Northborough Crossing requires cooperation from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to allow the Trails Committee to establish a trail route in the Hop Brook flood control area. This area is well over 100 acres and is bracketed by Route 20 and Davis St. in Northborough. Despite securing CPA funding for this trail in 2013, DCR has failed to cooperate with NTC to move this project forward, so Committee volunteers are left wondering what to make of the State's supposed support of outdoor recreation opportunities.

- Mr. Oyola and his son Mateo were present to discuss a proposed Eagle Scout project for Mateo (Troop 1 Northborough). The project focuses on repairing several problematic areas of one of the town's most popular trail networks: Edmund Hill Woods. Topics discussed were: asking for gravel donations to fill in wet areas of parking lot, re-shaping parking lot to discourage trash dumping, rebuilding sign at entrance, repainting trail blazes, repairing bridges, installation of water breaks on the steep slope up to Edmund Hill. The Committee supports Mateo's project and will assist in funding for repairs.

9:30 p.m. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Chairman Bob Mihalek (temporarily serving as recording secretary)