

**WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2023**

Attendees: Jay Prosnitz, Denny Nackoney, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Steve Park, Bob Brown, Diane Hall, Rick Mongeau, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison)

Absent: Joan Gaughan, John Schuler

Guests: None

Location: Warren Building, Children's Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 15, 2022, was made and seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

NRC Update – Laura.

- Lawn conversion of strip beside the library to natural state and growth
- Wetlands is tightening up by-law penalties
- NRC sent letter of support for dam removal in Watertown
- NRC is beginning process of reviewing policies in handbook

Centennial Meadow: Steve will present to the NRC on February 2nd the Upper Meadow DPW plans to mitigate erosion and drainage as described in November 2022 minutes.

Map House Repairs: Steve reported Scott Shepherd is planning to revisit the houses and get the work done.

WTC Work Apparel: Diane discussed checking into apparel for trail work and leading trail walks. She will also talk to Jen about L.L. Bean vests she had with other organizations

Mobility Committee: Jay reported on meeting that reviewed reinstating the town bus route that would optimize use and connect smoothly with desired locations. Final bus route is still to be determined.

Paintshop Pond Trails: Jay gave update for Joan on Paint Shop Pond trail. Wellesley College is not currently interested in collaborating with WTC to mark a trail in this area.

Spring Walks:

- Sudbury Aqueduct– Sunday 4/30, 10:00 a.m. *Diane/ Ekaterina*
- Fuller Brook – Sunday 5/14 (promote Mother's Day), 2:00 p.m. *Jay*
- Morse Pond (Wellesley Wonderful Weekend) - Saturday, 5/20, 9:00 a.m. *Joan/ Rick*
- Hemlock Gorge – Saturday, 6/3, 9:00 a.m. *Steve*

Discussed how to promote our walks. Denny felt sandwich boards are not effective. Many people learned about or spring and fall walks from our Facebook page. Discussed posting a QR code on fliers at the Wellesley Recycling Center, the town website, and other locations in town.

Surrounding Community Open Space Events: Bob noted that Natick has scheduled open space events with speakers and series of webinars. The Mass Land Conservation council has a meeting scheduled in March.

Wellesley Conservation Land Trust Requests - details on WCLT website and newsletter

- Volunteers for Pickle Point Trail Restoration Project at the end of January
- Interested Wellesley Residents apply for training sessions to lead conservation walks and education seminars

Five Year Project Plan reviewed by Denny.

Trail Status/Advocacy – monitoring, maintenance, problems

- Discussion on ways of getting more young people involved in trails.
 - Laura will talk with Lisa Moore about a possible natural challenge.
 - Walk all 29 miles of trails? badges? Awards? Community event? Scouts?
- Posts on Dale St. have been knocked down, probably from cars turning around on the street near the sports complex. Post removed and trail markers put on trees.
- Denny and Jay will set up booth for DPW SAFETY AND WELLNESS FAIR – April 13 from 1-4.
- Denny reported that we received an email suggesting that Wellesley's Animal Control officer occasionally walk Centennial to check on dog walkers. Make sure dog walkers have licenses if too many dogs. Public seeing it is monitored. Jay will discuss with Brandon.
- Rick discussed concern with etiquette on shared trails with walkers & cyclists. Should we consider putting up signage with recommended etiquette for sharing these outdoor spaces. He's going to see what other communities do.

Memorial Grove trail repair - Steve will continue to monitor status

Financials: We have significant funds remaining that we have committed for various projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 7 pm at the Children's Room, Warren School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by,

Jay Prosnitz

Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee