

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2021

Attendees: Bob Brown, Joan Gaughan, Diane Hall, Denny Nackoney, Steve Park, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, and Jeff Zupan.
Absent: Miguel Lessing
Guests: Eric Sofen, Josh Ostroff
Location: via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

At Public Speak Josh Ostroff, a member of the Natick Transportation Advisory Committee, talked about a Trails Summit meeting that they are planning for later this year. They would like to have adjacent town participation, and we accepted his invitation to attend. We told him about our proposed project to complete the sidewalk along Washington St connecting to Elm Bank and Natick, and he was very supportive of our plans.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 5, 2021, was made by Jeff and was followed by a second from Joan. The vote carried unanimously.

Eric Sofen has attended three Trails Committee meetings, has helped with our self-guided walks project and would like to join our committee. All committee members agreed he would make an excellent member! Steve will request the NRC Commissioners appoint him to the Trails Committee.

Denny pitched the two bog bridge projects at Centennial and Boulder Brook Reservations at the Wetlands Protection Committee meeting on January 7, and they were approved. Scout troops in town were informed that these Eagle Scout projects were available, and a scout has accepted the Centennial Reservation project.

Jeff initiated a discussion about counting trail users. It was unclear about how we would use this data, and it was decided to defer any further discussion until a need materializes.

Joan and Steve updated us on finding funding to completing the Washington St sidewalk to Elm Bank and Natick. It was disappointing to hear that CPC money is not available for sidewalks. They will pursue this with other Town departments to partner on this project and to locate potential funding sources.

Several write-ups have been submitted by committee members for self-guided walks to replace our usual guided spring walks. Steve will review them and Denny will provide maps. Plan is to finalize them at the next meeting and advertise them in April.

Committee members were asked to review our current 5-Year Project Plan that expires at year's end. We discussed plans for generating a new plan and possibly changing the framework of the document. Denny will distribute a list of previously considered projects before the next meeting to get the ball rolling.

Denny reported that we are on track for mid-FY21 expenditures. We have spent 40% of our administrative budget and it is anticipated that we will be well within our project budget with the two Eagle Scout projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (2/2/21), Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Denny Nackoney
Vice Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee