

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021

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

Absent: None

Location: via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for February 2, 2021, was made by Joan and was followed by a second from Jeff. The vote carried unanimously.

At the last NRC meeting Eric Sofen was appointed to the Trails Committee. Welcome Eric!

There has been significant trail damage on the upper meadow of the Centennial Reservation Trail. Laura and Steve met on-site to survey the trail degradation. The grassed area around the benches has become muddy, enlarged and ill defined. Also the new S-curve trail descending the meadow has become muddy and widened by users walking along the edges to avoid the mud. We discussed and proposed multiple solutions. We will follow up with any recommendation once the area has dried up and we can assess the full damage.

Jeff reported that the consultant for the Mobility Committee has issued a series of maps for the sustainability project and he will forward it to the Trails members. Also, a Sustainable Mobility Forum will be held on April 15 and the public is invited.

Steve reported that the Natick Trails Summit will be held on Saturday April 3 and he will give a short update on Wellesley Trails. It will be by Zoom and all Trails members are invited to attend.

Steve and Joan have discussed the Washington St sidewalk with the Police Department and Historic Commission, and have gotten positive feedback. There was however a concern by the Historic Commission about how the project will impact the natural and rural area along that section of Washington St.

The DPW has fenced off access to the North Forty from the steep drop-off along Turner Rd that will improve trail user safety. The DPW has also requested that Trails establish a new trail offset from the current trail to keep trail users away from the mitigation area. A trails project is scheduled for April 25 to construct a new trail. The DPW will then close off the old trail.

We reviewed the current status of our 5-year plan that expires at the end of the year, and we have completed 5 of the projects, 4 are ongoing, and 2 have not progressed because of implementation difficulties. We also reviewed a list of previously considered projects that had been passed over for previous plans and we may want to reconsider. Seven new projects were suggested by members and will be added to the list for future discussion and site visits.

Drafts for the six self-guided spring walk descriptions and maps have been completed and distributed to members for final input. Denny will work on preparing them for publication on our website.

We discussed changes to assignments for monitoring trails, filling map holders at our 20 kiosks, and maintaining our 5 doggie bag dispensers. The updated list will be uploaded to our website.

Laura reported the NRC is considering installing more bluebird boxes at Centennial Reservation, and we emphasized the importance of the NRC to have a plan for maintaining them.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12 at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (3/16/21), Future Trails Development and Improvements Projects (3/8/21)

Denny Nackoney
Vice Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee