

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2021

Attendees: Bob Brown, Denny Nackoney, Joan Gaughan, Steve Park, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Eric Sofen, and Jeff Zupan.

Absent: Diane Hall, John Schuler, and Ekaterina Zemlyakova

Guests: Jay Prosnitz

Location: Outdoors on the lawn behind Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 12, 2021, was made by Joan and was followed by a second from Jeff. The vote carried unanimously.

Regretfully, Miguel Lessing has resigned from the Trails Committee on May 1. Miguel has been an active member of the committee since 2004 and has served as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. He was always ready with a helping hand, wise words for initiating projects, and practical advice for solving problems. He will be missed.

Laura announced the Pollinate Wellesley Event taking place June 21-27, and encouraged members to take part in this initiative to inspire our community to use eco-friendly landscaping methods to protect our health and environment.

Sam Anderson completed his Eagle Scout project at Centennial Reservation on April 24. He led twelve scouts in building a 24-ft bog bridge over a muddy section on the main loop trail in the reservation.

A team of 9 committee members and volunteers constructed a 900-ft long new trail in the North 40 on May 2. This trail will replace an existing trail in the mitigation area that is scheduled to be closed by the DPW later this spring. We also closed an unauthorized trail constructed in the mitigation area along Turner Rd.

National Grid will be closing off the Charles River Path in back of Walnut St in Lower Falls to finish maintenance work on the gas pipeline. We will be detouring the trail around the area in mid-May.

We plan to install the flower boxes on the bridge over the Charles at Waterstone this month that was delayed by the pandemic.

Eric noted that there are pathways that do not run along roadways but provide short-cuts between roadways or to Town facilities and proposed they be added to the trails map. Since this is not part of our recreational trails network, it was suggested that this be shown on a mobility map that residents could use to connect from their homes to destinations in Town by walking or biking. Eric is planning to review a couple example pedestrian routes connected by pathways to evaluate the character and significance of pathways that could be shown on a mobility map. Jeff will follow up with this idea with the Mobility Committee.

Steve and Denny met on-site with the NRC, DPW and Select Board to inspect the unsanctioned dirt bike ramps built by kids at Fuller Brook Park off Appleby Rd. We decided that the DPW would immediately restore the area to prevent further damage and the public would be alerted that this sort of behavior is not acceptable in parkland.

On May 8 committee members inspected trail problems at Centennial Reservation and remediation suggestions were discussed at the meeting. Trail problem areas are at the lower meadow at the parking lot, middle meadow north of the pond, and the upper meadow along the hillside "S" trail. We will meet with the NRC and DPW to review recommendations to correct and improve trail conditions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16 at 6:30 PM using the Zoom platform or outdoors.

The meeting was adjourned in fading light at 8:30 PM.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (5/12/21), Future Trails Development and Improvements Projects (5/12/21), Centennial Reservation Trail Review Notes (5/8/21)

Denny Nackoney
Vice Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee