

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2022

Attendees: Steve Park, Denny Nackoney, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Bob Brown, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Jay Prosnitz

Absent: Ekaterina Zemlyakova, John Schuler, Diane Hall

Guest: Rick Mongeau

Location: Town Hall lawn

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 26, 2022 was made by Joan and seconded by Denny. Minutes were approved unanimously.

NRC Liaison Update

New trees were planted along Fuller Brook Park. The tree planted at Centennial Park last year may be dead. Laura will check with Cricket.

Laura reported back on Pine Point erosion restoration. The work is funded but hasn't been put out to bid yet.

Playing field optimization study starting in June. Trails committee will be informed about it, but we likely don't have much input.

Mobility Update

Jay provided a brief update. Most of the current focus is on transit.

Centennial Reservation alternate trail design

Joan suggested reopening the lower trail through the woods near the Sisters of Charity property as an alternative to the meadow trail. The Committee held a site visit on May 9th. We discussed how it is shady, likely has more durable surface, and provides a flatter route. However, Centennial already has a very high trail density and habitat fragmentation is a concern. We considered a few modifications to the route. Joan motioned to investigate reopening the lower trail. Seconded by Jay. Motion passed unanimously.

Next steps to open the trail:

1. Finalize and map the proposed route.
2. Get permission from Sisters, MassBay, and NRC.
3. Re-open the trail: Minor clearing of underbrush, improve the seasonally muddy swale crossing, shift the trail away from meadow, and re-align junction at the lower end of the meadow.

Centennial Reservation meadow erosion

Steve contacted several trail contractors. None have responded to provide estimates, yet. Student Conservation Association and Weston & Sampson (or asking them about their trail subcontractors) were suggested as other possible contractors.

20 Tappan Rd large house review

The proposed house will be closer than any other house to the Fuller Brook Path. Jay has talked to Planning Board and NRC from his personal perspective. We discussed whether the proximity to the Brook Path makes this issue relevant to this committee. Jay proposed the Trails Committee write a letter expressing the committee's concern about the proximity of the house to the path impacting the experience of the trail. Seconded by Joan. Vote approved with 6 in favor. Bob abstained as he is also reporting on the issue. Steve will draft the letter.

Fall walk schedule

Denny proposed waiting until the next meeting to schedule fall walks. The Recreation Department's advertising timeline is shorter than it used to be .

Bog bridge

Denny has a Needham Life Scout to do the Boulder Brook bog bridge project this summer.

Hundreds Trail

Garden Close Condo Association has approved the trail access to Brown Park from Garden Road, including trail markers.

Map House Roof Repairs

Steve investigated roofing materials and prefers asphalt shingles. Metal is more expensive and difficult to install. 10 map houses need re-shingling. One needs the roof rebuilt. Steve will investigate whether there are either volunteers interested in the work or a contractor to hire.

Trail Maintenance Issues

Joan and Denny will walk a trail near the Morses Pond parking lot that Joan thinks has faded away from disuse.

Garrity Signs can refurbish the Crosstown Trail sign by the Warren Center. Estimated cost is \$895 to strip, seal and repaint. Denny motioned we allocate \$900 to refurbish the Crosstown sign. Seconded by Steve. Unanimously approved.

Denny printed more maps and ordered another batch of dog waste bags.

Jay pointed out that Morses Pond access road opened early this year and noted that people like walking in on the road. He contacted the Traffic Committee about traffic calming on the access road. Bob reported that at a recent Recreation Commission meeting they were considering keeping the gate open for more time.

Guernsey Path past the vernal pool would benefit from another arrow.

Steve will send the member list to NRC for re-appointment.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 22, 2022** at 6:30 pm outside Town Hall. Juliani Room in case of rain.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Copies of meeting handouts are available from the NRC Office.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee