

STURBRIDGE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – November 9, 2023

LOCATION: Center School

VOTING ATTENDEES: Brandon Goodwin (BG), Fritz Reeve (FR), David Peterkin (DP), Jennifer Scherer (JS)

ASSOCIATE ATTENDEES: Tom Chamberland (TC), Nate Lane (NL), Eli Garrett (EG)

GUESTS: Brian and Kathy Peterson

RECORDED BY: Fritz Reeve, STC Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 PM

Trail Counter Data:

- No November data

REVIEW of PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- Review of the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes. TC motions to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. BG seconds motion. Vote 4-0 to approve.
- Review of the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes. TC motions to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. BG seconds motion. Vote 4-0 to approve.
- FR to provide past years meeting minutes to town hall in early December

BUDGET:

- Low bid for Fiske Hill Parking lot construction came in at \$31.5K, which was under the \$40K budgeted amount.
- Tighe and Bond did not get their paperwork in for the last Select Board meeting. Looking to get approved at next meeting and job would most likely start near end of November and into December. BG, FR, and EG will assist with monitoring project.
- Budget requests for next year need to be in by Dec. 7th
 - Betterment request for miscellaneous expenses - \$ 800
 - Betterment request for battery operated tools (chainsaw) - \$2000
 - Betterment request for UTV dump trailer - \$3000
 - Betterment request for Solar System for Sheds (Kathy P)
 - Budget line item – trails conference (4 passes)
 - Capital Requests (over 5K)

GRANTS:

- FR to look at Feb. 1 MassTrails grant application for the Farquar extension project. Need the feasibility study from Tighe and Bond for grant application.
- NEMBA grants in Feb and March?

TRAIL WORKDAYS/UPDATES:

- Oct 21
 - Leadmine Mtn:

- Mtn Laurel trail - Relocation/rock armoring. Need 6-8 people and RTV, picks, shovels, pry bar, loppers, gloves, rock slings
 - Mtn Laurel trail - brush cutting and trail cleaning
 - Cow Stile trail - brush cutting and trail cleaning
 - Riverlands
 - Cistern and flow trails improvements
 - Haul gravel up on Riverlands to Leadmine near Flow #1
 - Arbutus - spread fine gravel needed to complete trail
- Nov 11
 - Riverlands Flow trail work and maintenance
 - Rollers on Flow 3
 - Fill in wet spots on Flow 2 and 3
 - NEMBA group coming to work on Flow trails
- Nov 18
 - Third Saturday workday
 - Rock Armoring, Leaf blowing,

TA UPDATE:

- TA is setting up meeting with OSV in December to work on easements for trails.
- TA to request easement on Belanger property so trail can be extended to Holland Road
- TA is in support of a pump track on the Sheperd property. That property is not suited for dog park because there is no water.

FROST UPDATE:

- No Update

ConCom MEETINGS:

- BG and TC to meet ConCom members to discuss Long Pond projects
- BG to work with ComCon to get some drawings done

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Most of the benches have been placed on the trails now. STC would like the high school to build 8 more benches. BG motions to approve the funding for the high school to build 8 benches at an estimated cost of \$800. DP seconds the motion. Vote 4 - 0 to approve.

NEW BUSINESS:

- STC will review existing work done by TC and distribute that work across the larger STC committee. The goal is to have ownership and accountability for those tasks.
- Assisting/training Safety Officers about trail system so they can quickly locate a hiker on the trails
- NEMBA will be encouraging their chapter members to work on one of the STC third weekend work days.

NEXT MEETING: December 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURN: BG motions to adjourn. FR seconds motions. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM