

STURBRIDGE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – September 12, 2022

LOCATION: Town Hall Conference Room

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

ASSOCIATE ATTENDEES: Tom Chamberland (TC)

GUESTS: Nick Sokol, Ryan Yates

RECORDED BY: Fritz Reeve, STC Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 PM

Trail Counter Data:

- In August:
 - There were 6,103 total trail visitors based on Trafx counter data. This is an increase of 837 visitors as compared to last month.
 - The most visited property was Leadmine (Shattuck, Morgan, Pinelands) with 5,034 visitors, followed by Heins Farm with 852 visitors
 - Trail usage increased on all trails in August as compared to last month.
 - Note: no traffic counters on Plimpton nor Long Pond yet

REVIEW of PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- Review of the August 11, 2022 meeting minutes. TC motions to approve the meeting minutes. BG seconds motion. Vote 5-0 to approve.

BUDGET:

- Look to get TRHS electrical students to provide backup electricity source for lighting at Riverlands sheds
- Have \$8K for SCA. Need to have it in for December. Prefer to have SCA earlier in Summer next year
- STA budget requests; tee shirts

TEA GRANT:

- There is a punch list that needs to be finished in October
- The TEA Grant project will be completed in October

GRANTS: No Update

TRAIL WORKDAYS/UPDATES:

- Aug 20 Workday – Completed work
 - Leadmine
 - Cut brush on Seven Ridges, Raven Rookery to 1st bridge site
 - Removed 1 dead fall on Raven Rookery and Mt. Laurel
 - Hand finish Leadmine trail section (south), partially done
 - Long Pond
 - Installed property trail sign on 197 Brookfield Road

- Riverlands
 - Watered plants around parking lot
- Sep 17 Workday – 7:30 am at Riverlands Sheds
 - Riverlands
 - Work of Cistern/Flow trail. Improve turn banking. Remove stones and rocks.
 - Install flow trail sign posts
 - Repaint “gray” to “lighter gray”. Check all flow trails for appropriate markings
 - Move gravel onto Leadmine trail and stock pile under power lines
 - Leadmine
 - Hand finish Leadmine trail section (north)
 - Cut brush on Seven Ridges trail
 - Trash/liter pickup at OSV and Shattuck parking lots
 - Plympton
 - Change out “good bye” sign , install 2 Hamilton trail signs, relocate last “Plympton Trail” sign to new location and change out sign to proper arrow (<)

TA UPDATE:

- BG to meet with TA and discuss easements

FROST UPDATE: No Update

ConCom MEETINGS:

- Some members of ConCom walked Seven Ridges trail with BG

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sep. 24th – National Public Lands Day
 - 10:00 am Ribbon cutting at Riverlands Opening
 - Need to get press release out
 - Have three maps for each property: Riverlands, Long Pond, Westville (TEA and MassTrails Grant)
 - Bring pop-up tent
 - 10:15 Flow trail Bike ride
 - 10:30 Flow Trail run
 - 10:30 Trail Walk
 - 10:45 Family Bike Rides
 - Cooks orchard – donating apple cider,
 - FROST: Buy cupcakes, Porta-potty
- On another weekend
 - 9 am ribbon cutting at Long Pond?
- Mass Trail Conference
 - First weekend in November

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- FR to write a letter to SCA expressing concern about the performance of the last crew
- TC working with TRHS carpentry students to get trail signs built

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURN: BG motions to adjourn. FR seconds motions. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM