

## **STURBRIDGE TRAILS COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES – August 26, 2021**

**LOCATION:** Town Hall Conference Room

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

**ASSOCIATE ATTENDEES:** Tom Chamberland (TC)

**GUESTS:** Dave Barnicle (DB), Jennifer Scherer (JS), Jeff Bridges (JB), Karen Davis (KD), Bob George (BG), Marykate Feney (MF) with George and Davis

**RECORDED BY:** Fritz Reeve, STC Secretary

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**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 PM

#### **Introductory Discussion on Equestrian Center (TC recuses himself from discussion)**

- Lot is on east side of Rt. 84 near CT boarder. Roughly 240 acres of land. Property will host horse races, riding lessons, agriculture education and trails opportunities. Access is only through Rt. 84. Completely green project. Will have biomass conversion system. Trail system would add 2.4 miles of trail. Maybe a pump track. Asking for input from STC on what is needed or desired from STC.
- Equestrian Center project is asking for assistance in designing trails. Equestrian Center will own and maintain any trails on property. STC would request ADA compliant trails. Trails will be part of the Host Community Agreement. 18 – 24 months to break ground. STC can have input into what type of trails are included in the project.

#### **Trail Counter Data:**

- July adjusted traffic data for all trails with counters was 6,166 as compared to July 2020 adjusted traffic count of 4,771.
- 2021 YTD adjusted traffic is 47,485 compared to 37,270 for the same time period in 2020. Note: Shattuck counter added in Sep. 2020.

#### **REVIEW of PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

- Review of the July 8, 2021 STC meeting minutes. TC motions to approve the meeting minutes as written. RP seconds the motion. Vote 4-0.
- FR to send STC meeting minutes to town clerk for posting

#### **BUDGET:**

- TC provided overview of STC budget
  - \$16,319.99 expenditures to date mostly due to two SCA hitches which cost \$8K a piece
  - Equipment repairs needed on RTVs

#### **TEA GRANT:**

- TC provided a brief update. Additional costs are causing the project to be reevaluated again. Original earmark of \$550K. Then got \$300K more from MassTrails grant.

- Upcoming hearings on Oct 5 and Oct 12. These are required before construction can begin.

#### **GRANTS:**

- Riverlands Flow trails grant. All bids came in over allocated \$75K funding. Will reject existing bids. STC will reduce required trail footage to reduce cost and go out for another round bids. STC will also ask for more funding to cover all costs for total footage of planned trail.
- Riverlands parking lot grant. Now have a contract in place to start construction of parking lot and 1000 feet of trail. Northern Tree cut all the trees in preparation for parking lot. December 2021 completion date required by state grant.

#### **TRAIL WORKDAYS/UPDATES:**

- May want to change the name of the day to remove Workday from description. Make sure everyone knows its volunteer work. Suggestion is to put QR code on all maps on kiosk to get more information about volunteering.
- August 21<sup>st</sup> Workday
  - Cut up down trees
  - Finished Sandhill bridge #2
  - Cleaned some of the ditches on the Morgan Trail to improve water flow
  - Boy Scout finished his Eagle project on Plimpton trail
- Morgan Track and Arbutus Park trail needs cleaning up for Oct. 31st Trek Sturbridge 5K

#### **TA UPDATE:**

- Working on OSV easement
- Town purchase of Fiske Hill property will close by the end of the month

#### **FROST UPDATE:**

- 3 Events
  - Sep. 10 Night Sky with telescopes on Heins Farm
  - Riverlands Parking Lot - National Trails Day - Sep. 26 (Sun)
  - Annual First Day walk - Jan 1, 2022

**ConCom MEETINGS:** No Update

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Oct 31 - Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K - Rotary sponsored. Adult version and kid version of 5K race.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Conway school will help with updating the Master Plan after Jan 1, 2022.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Put gate on Long Pond

**NEXT MEETING:** September 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

**ADJOURN:** BG motions to adjourn. FR seconds motions. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM