

Bike & Trail Committee Meeting
December 20, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Community Center Meeting Room, 8 Simpson St, Newtown, CT 06470

Minutes

These minutes are subject to approval by the Bike & Trail Committee (BTC).

Attendees: Logan Adler, Jim Bernardi, Glenn Boyle, Barney Molloy, Charles Zukowski. Absent members: Brad Accettella, Geordie Elkins, Dan Evans, Robert Morris. Public attendees: None

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Bernardi made a motion to approve the November 15th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Adler. All in favor. Motion passed.

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

- Mr. Zukowski reported that the POCD workshop occurred, where the POCD process was outlined to the attendees. Recently, he and members of two other committees were interviewed by the town hired POCD consultant. The BTC POCD document with its input and plan for property connecting corridors was provided to the consultant.
- Mr. Zukowski reported that there is now a button on the Town website which connects to the POCD survey and the separate Social Pinpoint Comment Map. It is highly recommended that the map be reviewed so new comments can be made or already existing comments be “liked” or “disliked”. The Map provides an opportunity to give more specific ideas about items to be included in the Town’s POCD. Input needs to be made quickly; the extended public comment period ends December 31!
- Mr. Zukowski reported on the December 2nd trail review at Warner Pond. He also noted that the State created a document that has some interesting information regarding the region, including what appears to be a paper road that might allow open space connection. Here is the link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/forestry/Management_Plans/20222032-Paugusset-SFLowerKazanMgtPlan.pdf.
- Mr. Zukowski noted that the next trail review is scheduled to meet at Treadwell Park, weather permitting. The planned meeting is at 09:30, January 6th, at the pavilion accessed from Philo Curtis Road, using the north entrance to the park. (Not the entrance adjacent to the tennis courts)
- Mr. Zukowski reported that Mr. Elkins noted there is a UConn sponsored class from 09:00 – 12:30 on January 26, 2024 in Haddam, CT, on the use of Avenza Maps to create GPS trail data. The class is \$50 and focuses on how to use the application for data collection. Such data could be used for CT Trail Finder. Information can be found at <https://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/schedule/>
- Mr. Zukowski reported that the Upper Paugussett SF trails are now open all year because closure during eagle nesting is no longer required.
- Mr. Zukowski reported that the December 13th IW public hearing on the project impacting the Rochambeau Trail (near Reservoir Rd) will be continued at council chambers on January 10th. There was discussion about public access easements.

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OLD BUSINESS:

- Al's Trail Project Status – The State review/revision of the contract is incomplete and a status report has not been given about its expected completion. There is concern about the delay.
- Grant status update - There are no known changes.
- Paper Road Status Update – There are no known changes.
- Monitor Hill Rd trail reroute approval is still pending. There was discussion about compiling a list of desirable rerouting to ensure trails are all on open space, so approval could be efficiently obtained.
- Interaction and cooperation with other organizations is ongoing. There was discussion about BTC interaction with Parks & Recreation, Little Bellas and NEMBA.
- Fund raising – No changes reported.
- Trail Maintenance / Review – See above Chairperson's report for January 6th plan.
- POCD24 status – See above Chairperson's report.
- Deep Brook Farm update – There was discussion about where the negotiations for NFA's acquisition stand.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was discussion about removing invasive barberry in open spaces to make trails more accessible.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Molloy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Adler. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Boyle, Secretary