

Bike & Trail Committee Meeting
October 18, 2023, 6:30 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: Brad Accettella, Logan Adler, Jim Bernardi, Glenn Boyle, Geordie Elkins, Barney Molloy, Charles Zukowski. Absent members: Dan Evans, Robert Morris. Public attendees: None

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the September 20th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Accettella. All in favor. Motion passed.

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

- Mr. Zukowski reported on the completion of the walkway over the Housatonic River that is part of the newly completed I84 bridge. Access is from Underhill Rd and Fish Rock Rd. There was a discussion about the old bridge road that leads to the river and if there is any opportunity to include it in the trail system.
- Mr. Zukowski reported that the Newtown Forest Association (NFA) has a new website which is to be frequently updated in order to show current and upcoming events, such as the Deep Pond Brook walk. There was discussion about the prior web page archival data which now seems unavailable and if a complete NFA property listing is planned.
- The chairperson reported that the October 7th planned trail review / maintenance event was postponed to November 4th on account of the poor weather forecast.

OLD BUSINESS:

- AI's Trail Project Status – Mr Elkins reported that the grant was approved by the Finance Committee in its regular meeting and he and Mr. Zukowski are attending the Legislative Council meeting tonight to support grant acceptance. He also reported that a matching grant was received from the Jeniam Foundation. Mr. Elkins requested any available assistance from those who have authored a successful request for proposal similar to the one needed for the AI's Trail. There was a discussion about the need for a public meeting(s) to publicize the plan and to solicit input from Newtown residents.
- Grant status update - There are no known changes.
- Paper Road Status Update – There was a discussion of the Reservoir Road's portion of the historic Rochambeau Trail change in status and whether it needs to be removed from the paper road list. Discussion also regarding the easement's inclusion in the site plan and associated deed(s).
- Monitor Hill Rd trail reroute approval is still pending.
- Interaction and cooperation with other organizations is ongoing.
- Fund raising – No changes reported.
- Trail Maintenance / Review – November's trail maintenance / review will begin Saturday morning at 09:30, November 4th; meeting at the Cherry Grove Farm Preserve, Palestine Rd parking lot. The

Bike & Trail Committee Meeting
October 18, 2023, 6:30 P.M.
Community Center Meeting Room, 8 Simpson St, Newtown, CT 06470

Minutes

primary purpose of this activity will be to review the trails and coordinate with the NFA and Newtown Bridle Lands Association, which is involved in trail improvements on the property. The suggestion for the next two events, Dec 2nd and January 6th is Warner Pond, a state of Connecticut site bordering Rt 34 between Old Mill Rd and High Rock Rd, and the Butterfly Trail, which ends in Treadwell Park.

- POCD24 status – A presentation by the selected consultant is expected and we plan to follow up on our five page input, which is expected to be included in the final document.
- Deep Brook Farm update – The October 14th site walk was postponed to a currently unspecified date; when available, the NFA website will be updated to show the new timing.
- Learn to Ride a Bike – Mr. Accettella reported that the planning is for early spring. Meanwhile, a maintenance event to remove weeds, remediate erosion, etc is desirable.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Butterfly Trail – Discussion of current status, deterioration from flooding caused by a beaver dam on Curtis Pond Brook, and future possibilities to restore/enhance trail. Need a site visit to better understand the options, such as raised walk, rerouting or other options.
- BTC Facebook page – Mr. Elkins noted that there is a web page and asked if anyone would take charge of it. Mr. Adler agreed to do this. Details will be worked out between them.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Adler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bernardi. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Boyle, Secretary