

## Bike & Trail Committee Meeting

**March 20, 2024, 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: Brad Accettella, Glenn Boyle (via video), Geordie Elkins, Barney Molloy, Frank Pitrone, Charles Zukowski. Absent members: Logan Adler, Jim Bernardi, Robert Morris. Public attendees: Bill Harding

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Accettella made a motion to approve the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Elkins. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Zukowski reported attending the Conservation Committee's (CC) meeting, where Ms. Buskirk's requests for trail work was approved.
- Mr. Zukowski reported attending the video Planning & Zoning Commission's (PZC) meeting, where specifics of the 2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD2024) was discussed. A continuation of the public meeting is being held tonight and after this meeting is finished some BTC members will attend.
- Mr. Zukowski reported the March 2<sup>nd</sup> trail event at the Riverside open space (about 80 acres) revealed many trails and some possible parking at the end of Lookout Trail (Tomohawk Trail on Google maps). There was a discussion about BTC making a proposal for use of this space.
- Mr. Zukowski reported that the Borough of Newtown sidewalk group is planning to move forward with the sidewalk from Rt 302 to Queen St, adding to the pedestrian network. He reminded the group that the Castle Hill developers promised to build a sidewalk to Johnnycake Rd, which would more easily allow a connection to the Revolutionary Trail.
- Mr. Zukowski met with an Aquarian representative and discussed connecting the Collis P. Huntington State Park with Equestrian Rd (and beyond). There was a discussion about the number of approvals from different entities needed to enable this to be implemented. Note that Aquarian has the most sensitive properties; those near wetlands and streams.
- The chairperson noted there is no known update to the 6 Commerce Rd property, where BTC wants to ensure connecting trail is included.
- Mr. Zukowski noted that he has scheduled a meeting with the First Selectman to familiarize him with the BTC and its goals.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Al's Trail Project Status – The contract status has not been determined, although it is believed to be ready for signature. The plan is to create a Greenway from Fairfield Hills to the end of Al's trail.
- Grant status update - There are no known changes. Requests for proposals to do the related work can be sent when the signed contract is available.
- Paper Road Status Update – Mr. Zukowski created a map with an index which he handed out at the

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meeting and subsequently will be emailed to BTC members. This list now includes the area walked at March's trail review event (number 30), which BTC is calling Riverside Open Space.

- Minor Trail Reroute Status. Following last month's meeting where it was noted that a summary including a map would be helpful, Mr. Zukowski created a document. He handed this out at the meeting and it will be subsequently emailed to BTC members. It includes the following trails - Fosdick NFA property to Head O' Meadow, Fosdick to near Golden Pond, and Orchard Hill Nature Preserve to near Monitor Hill Rd.
- Interaction and cooperation with other organizations is ongoing. Mr. Zukowski attended the CC meeting to support the Newtown Bridal Lands Association's request for trail work. Mr. Accettella described the request from another organization to nominate roads that should have the "3 feet" bicycle safety signs posted, informing motorists that there is a requirement they give cyclists room. There is a Brownfields mixer at Newsylum on Keating Farms Ave. from 3-5pm on April 5, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and Western Connecticut Council of Governments, which the BTC supports.
- Fund raising – No changes reported. Mr. Boyle needs to follow up to clarify exactly where the existing funds are shown on the Town's books. Ideally, there will be instructions of how to add to the account and disburse BTC funds.
- Trail Maintenance / Review – Mr. Zukowski reported on the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Riverside Open Space review. He noted that there are ~80 acres of space with many trails. There is a suggestion that a proposal could be made regarding the use of and possible improvements to this area.  
The next trail review/maintenance event is scheduled for 09:30 Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Milliken Preserve, which is accessible from Albert's Hill Rd. The plan is to explore the property and its connections to surrounding trails. Also, to see if there is a way to route Al's trail to avoid the wetlands.
- POCD24 status – The public comment period is closed and meetings continue.
- Deep Brook Farm update – There are no known reportable changes. Negotiations are hoped to be nearing completion, but no announcement has yet been made.
- Pootatuck Watershed Plan – May have been approved, but no firm information known to BTC.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Future BTC Meeting Dates– A motion was made by Mr. Molloy and seconded by Mr. Accettella to approve future BTC meeting dates. The motion was approved unanimously. The dates are: 2024 - April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18. 2025: January 15, February 19, March 19.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Harding reported that he is in support of improving the trail marking and parking for the Riverside Open Space area. He has walked the area and noted that he has previous experience with trail related activities. BTC welcomed his support and appreciated his attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Elkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pitrone. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Boyle, Secretary