

Bike & Trail Committee Meeting
May 17, 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: Brad Accettella, Jim Bernardi, Glenn Boyle, Geordie Elkins, Chaz Foster, Robert Morris, Charles Zukowski. Absent members: Dan Evans, Greg Ritzinger. Member of the public attended: Barney Molloy.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Malloy gave kudos to the committee for its work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the April 19th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Accettella. All in favor. Motion passed.

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

- Mr. Zukowski reported that the water up-welling near Meeker Brook and the Old Farm Rd state highway building, noted at February, March and April's meetings, has been remediated. The water flow has been redirected with underground piping to the brook.
- Mr. Zukowski reported that the status of the POCD24 document is unchanged. The expectation is that it will be incorporated, in due course, into the Town's published document.
- Mr. Zukowski reported on the May 6th trail review/hike at the Howat Preserve, in the Zoar Rd/RT34 area. The group walked extensively in the area, noting many trails and an old wooden water tower. [A map of the walk was uploaded to the Town's GIS database in the layer called "Bike and Trail".] The trails were well defined, and easy to follow, even though they were not blazed. It was noted that nearby, across RT34, is Warner Pond, a state of Connecticut property (153 acres) which also has trails.
- Mr. Zukowski noted the next trail maintenance/review will be at the Rochambeau Trail (RT). The RT includes the unpaved continuation of Reservoir Rd, which connects to Castle Hill Rd from RT 6/25. The group will meet at 10am and work on the unpaved portion of the RT. Parking on Pumpkin LN or Cornfield Ridge Rd is recommended. Please dress appropriately and bring your brush clearing implements, because this will be a maintenance event.

OLD BUSINESS

- Paper Road Status Update – Status quo. (No changes from April).
- Al's Trail Project – The Town submitted CRTP grant application was approved. It is a feasibility study for a greenway from Fairfield Hills to Sandy Hook. There was discussion about the best way to re-engage the public. Further discussion is planned during the next meeting.
- Bike Playground Update – The grand opening of this new feature is June 7th at 5pm at the site, which is located between the road connecting the Sr. Center (8 Simpson St) to the Emergency Operations Center, and Keating Farms Rd. It is between Plymouth Hall and Cochran House. Mr. Accettella reported that NEMBA made a significant donation to have an ice cream truck with a 'make your own' option available. He is supplying a tent and chairs (logistics assistance prior to the event requested) and contemplates a sign up sheet to be able to follow up with attendees. Exact timing of signage, concrete pad and landscaping is not yet known, but expected before opening. Additional donations for this event are being solicited.

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NEW BUSINESS:

It was noted that cooperation and interaction with other organizations [such as the Newtown Forest Association, Newtown Bridle Lands Association, New England Mountain Biking Association, Trout Unlimited, Pootatuck Watershed Association, and Earthday Committee] is desirable and some has already occurred.

No other new business was presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Accetella made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Morris. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Boyle, Secretary