

Bike & Trails Committee Special Meeting

January 29, 2020, 7:30 P.M.

Community Center Meeting Room

8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT

Minutes

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

ATTENDEES

Brid Craddock, Brad Accettella, David Siroky, Geordie Elkins, Ken Kerin, Chaz Foster, Greg Rintzinger, Gavin Arneth, Dave Irving, Clinton DePaolo (Park and Rec. Commission) and two members of the public

CALL TO ORDER 7:31

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Chaz Foster motioned and Ken Kerin seconded to approve the minutes from 1/15 meeting. **PASSED**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Winter Seminar** –March 8th Sunday, 11:00 – 1:00 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. Discuss invitation to local interested parties for update on committee business and open forum discussion on trails in Newtown- walk FFH Trail afterwards. Committee member assignments.

Publicity is underway on Facebook, Bee, Hamlet Hub, Patch. There is lots of interest. Registration is going live on Park and Rec website.

Numerous groups have committed to host tables including a possible Friends of Newtown Trails. We will have two rooms. If you have a Newtown Trail shirt wear it.

Committee members will make tables. We may add a bike helmet fitting to the list of activities. Send nice photos to Brid so that she can post them on Facebook to generate publicity.

Submit Powerpoint files that we want to add NPS to roll through the event.

- **Fairfield Hills Authority presentation January 27, 2020** report on FFA input on the CT Trail Census & counters, Keating Farm Road closure, Walking Trail sign relocation, horse trailer parking, retaining two sycamore trees, designation of FFH trail as the trail head for Al's Trail, Sustainable CT Grant for Bike Playground located at former skate park location.

Brid introduced the work of the B&T Committee to FFHA including Trail Census (which they approved), Possible closure of part of Keating Farms Rd. (The road is used more as a trail than a road. They do not think they have any authority over it. Committee believes it is a land use issue. Dan Rosenthal is in favor of it. He suggested starting with plastic barrels and see how people respond.) Eventually it would need a gate that complies with FFH design standards. They asked for a written request supporting the idea. The committee is concerned about overuse of trails.

- **NPS Grant Steering Committee Participants-** Who wants to participate on the committee?

All are welcome. The current plan is to have meeting one hour before our regular committee meeting.

The NPS grant steering committee will meet at 6. Since most or all Committee members will participate we will consider it part of our regular meeting. We will extend our meeting time by starting at 6. From 6-7 we will focus on the grant and from 7-9 we will conduct regular business. This will help avoid issues with posting meetings and quorums etc. we will consider it all part of our regular meeting and change the starting time and secure the room.

NPS staff will be here to start an assessment of Al's Trail we will post that as a meeting in case more than half of the committee wants to participate. The meeting will start at noon on 2/12. We will meet near the boat ramp at Upper Paugussett. State Forest.

Stephanie and Stephan will review the survey and suggest edits. All board members are encouraged to do the same. We will try to use Survey Monkey for the survey and will see about posting it on the town website.

We will invite parties interested in a network of trails in town to participate on the steering committee. Groups such as Land use, con com, NFA, Pootatuck watershed, TNC, FFH, Bridal Lanes. This list is not exclusive and we will include trail land owners and others. We will use

Does NPS have any interest in coming to the event on Mar 8 or do they have any give away materials that we can hand out to raise publicity about the grant?

NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment of Dave Irving to the Committee.
- Presentation on monetary value of trails to a municipality to Board of Selectmen, Economic Development and Legislative Council (Ken Kerin)

Newtown has trail resources that we need to recognize and unify to create increased value to property and economy. This is a way of keeping the town "as it is" while also building value. We need to talk to Selectman, Economic Development, and Legislative Council to raise their awareness of the committee so that we can get their support on future projects.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

- Grants Update - Working on temporary bike park at FFH that will be in Park and Rec space. It will serve as a proof of concept for a future permanent park.
- Mapping, Marking & Approvals - We need a list of trails. Brid will talk to Park and Rec about borrowing accurate GPS unit. Geordie will make a shared folder for people start a comprehensive list of all trails in town and to upload GPS files to.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT 9:18 Charles Foster motioned and Ken Kerin seconded. **Passed**

Geordie Elkins, Secretary