

Bike & Trails Committee Meeting
December 21, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Community Center Meeting Room, 8 Simpson St, Newtown, CT 06470

Minutes

These minutes are subject to approval by Bike & Trails Committee (BTC) at the next meeting. The next BTC meeting is scheduled for 7pm, January 18, 2023.

Attendees: Glenn Boyle, Chaz Foster, Charles Zukowski. Absent members: Brad Accettella, Gavin Arneth, Jim Bernardi, Geordie Elkins, Robert Morris, Greg Ritzinger. Members of the public attended: Jennifer Hoage, Jillian Hoage, Barney Molloy.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Noting that a quorum was not present, no motions were proposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Not applicable; no quorum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Mr. Zukowski reported that he and Mr. Foster met with the first selectman:
 - The process for GIS trail updating was discussed.
 - A discussion about BTC's role and procedures occurred.
 - Confirmed BTC's input to the POCD24 is welcomed.
- Mr. Zukowski noted the Parks & Recreation 2025-26 budget included a line item "Rail Trail – Batchelder Park", with \$1.4 mil in the grant category of proposed funding.
- Mr. Foster reported that grant proposals are being solicited by the State of Connecticut, with link provided in Mr. Elkins' email and suggested BTC assist in appropriate grant applications. The link is to this page <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Trails/CRT--Funding>, where DOT, DEEP and three other entities' programs are referenced.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, UPDATES AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A Gold Award presentation was made by Ms. Hoage. She advocated posting signs at strategic locations to inform trail users of best practices when meeting horse mounted riders. BTC members provided positive feedback and gave input regarding next steps for approval for trails on Town property.
- Al's Trail Project Update – Mr. Zukowski's update is that progress continues toward a final report and the next meeting on January 13th might result in a completed report.
- Trail Maintenance Update – The next trail maintenance event will be a walk through, with possible minor clearing work, at Pole Bridge Preserve. BTC will meet at 10am at 50 Pole Bridge Rd on Saturday, January 7th.
- Bike Playground Update – Mr. Zukowski updated, based on Parks & Recreation Committee meeting attendance, that the project is expected to be in place by the second half of next year. Also, the Housatonic Valley - NEMBA supported fundraiser discussed at BTC's last meeting has 87 contributors and has exceeded its original goal by \$792. The Jeniam Foundation will fulfill its challenge grant to close the funding gap.
- Housatonic Rail Trail Extension – No current BTC actions are needed.
- Paper Road status update – No discussion.
- POCD24 Subcommittee update – The group met on December 7th. The group agreed a shared

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document would help, and Mr. Zukowski created the first draft. Mr. Elkins volunteered to work on updating GIS map layers. Members will update and review at their next meeting, scheduled for January 12th at 7:15pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Monitor Hill Rd – Mr. Zukowski reported a reasonable turnout for the Monitor Hill Trail walk and the group felt some minor trail routing changes might be helpful. He will follow up with Town contacts as needed.
- Follow up with March 2019 Fairfield Hills event attendees – The list needs to be put in electronic format that can be used to send emails.
- Preserved land update – The Newtown Forest Association completed acquisition this year of 24 acres at 130 Boggs Hill Rd, which abuts the Fosdick and Key Rock Preserves; about 200 acres altogether. Funds are currently being solicited in order to be ready to act when opportunities for additional open space acquisition present themselves.
- 2023 Meeting Calendar – Proposed 2023 meeting dates are: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Boyle, Secretary

Gold Award Sign:

