

Bike & Trails Committee Meeting  
**February 12, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**  
Fairfield Hills Town Hall Meeting Room 3  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

**MINUTES**

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

**ATTENDEES**

Committee: Brad Accettella, Brid Craddock, Ken Kerin, Dave Siroky, Greg Ritzinger, Geordie Elkins, Mark Lurie (Conservation Commission liaison)

Guests and Public: Stephanie Stroud (NPS Advisor), Stephan Bastrzycki (NPS Advisor), Glen Boyle

**CALL TO ORDER-** Chairperson Brid Craddock called the meeting to order at 7:02

**MINUTES-** Ken Kerin made a motion and Chaz Foster seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/29 meeting. All in favor. Passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-**

**Survey-** Currently the survey is a paper copy and Brid working with IT to figure out how to make a town wide survey and put it on the town website. Town attorney has to approve survey to go on website. Stephan suggested looking into Zoho survey as a platform.

Comments on the survey: Simple questions should be early in the survey. Gender- allow some sort of non-binary or non-answer options, Question 7. How do you like to use trails and open space make it multiple choice. Questions 13. select multiple options and other or comment, include photography bird watching. Problems experienced using the trails, or why wouldn't you use a trail. Do you mind sharing the trail with other user types (bikes, hike, horse). Question 12 add gear or trip to bike shop, bookstore. How much did you spend on last trail visit? Include a question about what kind of stories are you interested in along trails (mill, FFH, geologic, natural history). Give people option to take it home. We need an incentive to fill out the survey, but need to look into rules about contests and raffles. We will hand out paper copies as a last resort, but better if we can find an electronic solution because we do not really have the capacity to do lots of data entry.

We will have a PowerPoint with slides running. Send slides to Brad to compile.

We have volunteers that will help sign in visitors, but we need two board members to help also. Ken and Greg will help with that.

If the weather is good that day, we may offer guided walks or bike rides.

**Winter Open House-**

Committee members need to arrive by 10 that morning to help set up. The event is March 8<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 p.m. at the Community Center. We have the meeting room and part of the multi-use room. The event has been widely publicized on the Community Center tv, town website, print media, social media so we are expecting a good crowd.

There will be tables or displays from: CT trail census- Brid, Nemba, Brad is doing something for trail ambassadors, Peter- Trail Crew, Geordie- NPS Grant, Amy - Bike share, WestCog, NBLA, Trout Unlimited, Pootatuck watershed, Girl Scouts outdoor forestry handbook, HS Forestry Club

**Trail Counting-** Trail counter has arrived, it is at Land Use. We need to set it up, there are webinars on how to set it up. Can we get it set up by March 8th.? We are planning on putting it up near the intersection at High Meadows.

**GPS Loan Program-** Carl Samuelson has a high accuracy GPS, but it has proprietary software and we can't use it because of restrictions on the use license. Since that plan will not work, we will plan to collect GPS files recorded from regular handheld units or phones. The resolution is fine for most printed maps, but they will not be accurate enough for apps with a high zoom level or useful for confirming trails that are near boundaries. We want to collect trails that we can publish legally or trails that we want to make legal and need to pursue landowner permissions. We would like to invite NBLA to contribute trails too. There are trails in the Centennial Watershed that we need recordings of.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Abandoned Roads-** We should look at abandoned roads as possible trails. Greg will look into making a list of roads and seeing if any are suitable. We do not know if such a list already exists. Brid will check with Rob and Greg will check with the Highway department.

## **REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:**

- **Volunteers (events)-** Eversource will supply workers and hand tools for workdays. They will give an 8-hour day. April, May, June are when they are available. Maybe we could use them for FFH trail cleanup day similar to the one last year. They need someone to lead them for the day. We will sign up volunteers at March 8 event for a workday with Eversource (it has to be a weekday). We will aim for early June. Park and Rec would be in charge of HHF loop.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Glen has a drone and can do photography for the committee. He has done work for NFA. There are some restrictions about flying near powerlines that dictate where it can and can't be used.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Ken Kerin made a motion to close the meeting at 8:06. Seconded by Chaz Foster. All in favor.  
Passed

Respectfully Submitted,  
Geordie Elkins, Secretary