

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION'S**  
**TRAILS COMMITTEE**  
**CHARTER**

BACKGROUND

Promotion of a Biking and Pedestrian trails system in Wellesley was originally conceived and promoted in 1975 by the Wellesley Celebrations Committee as a Bicentennial Celebrations project. Financing for the project of \$15,000 was authorized under Article 22 of the 1975 Town Meeting and work progressed over a two-year period with much help from the Wellesley Public Works Department. In 1993, the Natural Resources Commission established a special committee of sixteen, known as the “Bikeways and Walkways Study Committee”, devoted to “planning trails for the 90’s and beyond” throughout the community. John G. Schuler was the Chairman of both the Celebrations Committee in 1975 and of the NRC Study Committee in 1993.

MISSION AND GENERAL GOALS

The Committee shall be responsible for developing, enhancing and maintaining a trails system in Wellesley and encouraging its use.

Additionally, the Committee shall explore ideas for interconnecting Wellesley’s open spaces by working with Town boards and departments on new trail development and negotiating trail usage and access with these and other organizations, such as the State government, adjoining towns and private land owners. When trail additions or changes are proposed, the Committee shall secure permission from the landowner or entity with jurisdiction.

TRAILS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Committee shall consist of Wellesley residents, with the number of members voted by the NRC Board. One member shall be a Commissioner of the NRC serving as liaison. The Committee shall elect from its body a Chair and a Secretary (who may be the same person) and other positions as the Committee may deem necessary, all serving a one-year term, starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Election results shall be reported to the NRC promptly. Terms of office for all Committee members will be renewed annually. Resignations will be submitted in writing unless they coincide with the end of a term.

DUTIES

- The Committee shall conduct its meetings and its business in accordance with applicable laws, bylaws and regulations, including these Guidelines and Procedures.
- The Committee shall meet regularly to plan and review proposed projects and budgets. In accomplishing planned projects, the Committee is strongly encouraged to enlist the help of volunteers including scout troops, Eagle Scout candidates, Key Club members, individuals and other service groups, as well as the Department of Public Works (DPW).

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Voted unanimously (with changes here incorporated) by the Natural Resources Commissioners on 9/29/2016. Voted unanimously by the Trails Committee on 10/25/2016.

- The Committee shall advise and assist the NRC towards fulfilling its responsibilities as stewards of the land within the jurisdiction of the NRC's designated trails. The same role will be exercised on other public lands within Wellesley where consent from other entities with jurisdiction has been received. Trail Signage may be placed on any new trail only with permission of the landowner or entity with jurisdiction.
  
- The Committee shall:
  1. Regularly monitor the trails, report conditions, maintenance needs and needed improvements;
  2. Maintain the trails using best practices;
  3. Identify appropriate locations for additional trails and linkages; coordinating with Town and State officials and private owners for this purpose.
  4. Provide public education and outreach regarding the trails, develop and revise trail maps and descriptions for public distribution; and
  
- The Chair of the Committee shall provide the NRC Commissioners with electronic copies of all meeting agendas, adopted minutes and project status reports.
  
- The Chair shall submit to the NRC Commissioners a written Fiscal Year Report for NRC review no later than August 15th, which shall include all major activities of the past year.
  
- The Chair will submit to the NRC Commissioners a written detailed Budget request for the NRC Board's review not later than September 15th, which shall include desired longer term plans.

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 Voted unanimously (with changes here incorporated) by the Natural Resources Commissioners on 9/29/2016. Voted unanimously by the Trails Committee on 10/25/2016.