

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2021

Attendees: Bob Brown, Joan Gaughan, Diane Hall, Denny Nackoney, Steve Park, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, and Jeff Zupan.
Absent: Miguel Lessing
Guests: Eric Sofen
Location: via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 17, 2020, with corrections requested by Steve, was made by Jeff and was followed by a second from Ekaterina. The vote carried unanimously.

Laura reported that the NRC will be updating the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan during this year, and the Trails Committee will help support this effort. The Trails Committee also plans to publish our 5-Year Plan for 2022-2026. This will be our 4th trails plan since our first one published in 2005.

Since we are not planning any guided walks for the spring because of the pandemic, suggestions were made by committee members for self-guided walks that will focus on interesting places along our trails that are not familiar to residents. Suggested walks are: Lower Falls and Mary Fief Hunnewell Footbridge (Diane), Rockridge Pond (Joan), Hemlock Gorge and Artist Point (Steve), Wellesley Office Park trail along the Charles (Eric), Geological Wonders (Laura), and Waban Arches (Denny). Please have drafts, similar to the ones done in the fall, ready by the next meeting.

Discussions continue with CPC and DPW on constructing a sidewalk along Washington St to Elm Bank. Steve reported that the DPW reviewed their rough estimate and gave a new lower estimate of \$291k. Laura will update the NRC on the status at their next meeting.

Denny provided an update on the request we made to DCR for a new trail along the Charles River between the Wellesley Office Park trail and Rt-9. The Select Board and Mobility Committee sent letters to DCR supporting the idea, and the DCR is considering the proposal in conjunction with other trail projects along the Charles.

Two RDAs have been submitted to the Wetland Protection Committee for permitting Eagle Scout projects at Boulder Brook and Centennial Reservations. They will be considered at their January 7 meeting.

Steve, Brandon and Denny have met with DPW Engineering and Park & Trees to plan for closing a section of the North 40 Trail adjacent to the mitigation area and replacing it with a new trail offset from the old trail. A new trail was flagged and we discussed ideas for blocking access to the old trail using a natural woodlands barrier.

The Crosstown Trail off Forest St along the Cochituate Aqueduct was badly eroded and had high exposed roots that were a safety hazard. Park and Tree repaired the trail and leveled the treadway with woodchips. Kudos to the DPW for a job well done!

The Sudbury Path along Benvenue has been on our list of safety problem areas, and the DPW suggested we propose solutions to the Traffic Committee for considerations. We will also pitch it to Planning to get their input.

Following up on the Trails Committee's report of new bike paths, jumps and stream crossings constructed along the Cochituate Aqueduct and in Indian Springs Park, the Select Board sent abutters a letter stating all land should be restored to its natural state. The trails committee continues to monitor developments in this area.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (1/5/21)

Denny Nackoney
Vice Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee