

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022

Attendees: Steve Park, Denny Nackoney, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Jay Prosnitz, Bob Brown,
Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Diane Hall

Absent: John Schuler, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison)

Location: Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 19, 2022 was made by Joan, seconded by Ekaterina. Minutes were approved unanimously.

NRC Liaison

No report.

Memorial Grove Trail Restoration

Brandon and Cricket are working on a restoration plan. Steve shared our discussion from last meeting with them. Cost for restoration is estimated at \$2000. Steve proposes Trails Committee cover the cost of the lesser of 50% or \$1000. Joan asked for clarification around the restoration plan prior to voting. The plan is to fill low areas and add crushed stone in rutted areas. Add short fencing at each end of the path to define the entry and exit of the path. Trails Committee has a total FY2022 budget of \$8500 with \$5000 for capital projects. We concluded that we have plenty of budget for this project. We may need to revisit the location of trail markers, but that can happen once the fencing is up.

Steve moves to share costs with NRC at 50% up to \$1000. Seconded by Jay. Approved unanimously.

Walnut Street Reconstruction

Steve attended the neighbors meeting for the reconstruction project as a stakeholder because one Crosstown Trail goes along and crosses Walnut. The project will go to Town Meeting this spring for funding. Steve shared the three proposed cross-sections for the road.

Discussion of the various options included these points:

- Denny likes grassy parking strips.
- Joan spoke in favor of the safety of Option 3 with the separated shared use path on the north side of the street.
- Jay points out signage for the shared use path will be important to get people onto the correct side of the road.
- Eric notes that sharrows (Option 2) are no longer best practice for safe bike infrastructure.

Joan motioned that we vote to formally support Option 3. Diane seconds. Voted unanimously in favor. Steve will follow up with Dave Hickey and Dave Cohen at the DPW expressing our support for Option 3 because it supports all types of users. He will also share the suggestion about signage for the entrances to the shared use path.

Crosstown Trail extension to Washington Street

Right now, the Crosstown Trail ends at the Charles River near Newton. Denny proposes extending the Crosstown trail along the Charles River path north to Walnut St to the town line. This formalizes the aqueduct trail connection to Newton's aqueduct path which is now signed. Steve points out that this expresses the interconnectivity of our trails with neighboring towns' trails. The committee discussed the challenges of connecting to the Newton side through the Rt-16/Quinobequin/Rt-128 onramp area and making the connection welcoming. Denny and Steve said that a study had been done for proposed solutions with a feasibility matrix comparing four alternatives, and it was sent to members after the meeting.

Jay made a motion to extend the Crosstown. Denny seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.

Forest Street trail crossing update

Steve brought the Trails Committee request from last month to the Traffic Committee. Scott Showstead says they will put up double-sided Trail Crossing signs. ADA requirements can't be met for a crosswalk. There was discussion of whether signage would actually do more harm than good by encouraging crossing at a dangerous site.

Steve suggested he will follow up with the Traffic Committee that we're concerned about a sign encouraging crossing there that may not be safe, and that we don't know whether this would be more beneficial than harmful, but we will leave it up to the Traffic Committee's judgement.

Bristol Wellesley trail connections

Bristol Wellesley is the new development on Weston Rd just north of the Crosstown Trail. One connection is direct to the Crosstown Trail. The other two connect through the North 40 to the Crosstown Trail. Denny wonders why they need two trails from the property through the North 40 rather than one. Denny will start out by talking with the ZBA about the plan. Denny wants to suggest that Trails Committee puts in the trail connection rather than the contractor.

NRC Owl Prowl

Steve shared that Lisa Moore is organizing an owl walk Feb 21st. Joan has volunteered to help.

New 5-Year Plan

Start on the new 5-year plan. Denny proposed starting with the Hundreds trail. It requires NRC approval to sign the trail through Brown Park. We still need to decide on which way around Rock Ridge Pond to Carisbrooke, but this doesn't need to be decided before going to NRC.

Rosemary Brook trail construction will need to wait until summer.

Wellesley Office Park coordination with John Hancock can start now. Colette Aufranc (Select Board) and Denny attended the MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MAPC sub-region) meeting this afternoon. MWRC is working on figuring out how to approach DCR consistently to get feedback on projects involving DCR land. Denny suggests first approaching John Hancock, as it was originally their idea.

Project List check-in

Reviewed the current project list.

New Business

Diane mentioned that the small bridge in Centennial has a deteriorating board on one end. She'll send along photos. Denny has replacement boards.

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (2/19/22), Walnut Street Reconstruction, Bristol Landscape Plan, Bristol Trail Map.
Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee

FY22 TRAILS PROJECT LIST

March 15, 2022

Key: n=new project, u=updated, c= completed/closed/cancelled, cap/bold =change from last report

	<u>Project/Task</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Priority</u>
CROSTOWN TRAIL (green arrows)				
C	1 Monitor planned side trails to new Bristol Condos	Denny	Closed	3
	2 Keep NRC and Select Board informed about bike paths constructed by kids/parents at Indian Springs Park	WTC	Ongoing	1
c	3 Submit recommendations for Kendall St easement	Eric	Completed	1
c	4 Make recommendations for Memorial Grove trail repair	Steve	Completed	1
	5 Investigate safely extending trail across Forest St	Steve/Joan	Ongoing	2
N	6 Extend trail along Charles to Rt-16 and Wales St in Newton	Denny	Not Started	3
BROOK PATH (pink arrows)				
c	1 Install pedestrian controlled signal crossing at State St.	Denny/DPW	Completed	1
	2 Correct path drainage problem between Grove and Cameron	Jay/DPW	Ongoing	2
SUDBURY PATH (blue arrows)				
	1 Reroute trail to NW corner of Cheever House property and install crosswalk across Washington St	Denny	Stalled	1
	2 Improve path on Washington St from end of sidewalk to new crosswalk to Elm Bank and Natick town line	Joan	Ongoing	1
	3 Correct problem of water flowing on trail below new Babson tennis courts	Denny	Ongoing	2
	4 Investigate providing an off-roadway path on Benvenue St	Denny	Not Started	2
c	5 Improve footing on steps down to bottom of Waban Arches	Steve	Cancelled	2
GUERNSEY PATH (orange arrows)				
	1 Pave Dover Rd sidewalk gap from Benvenue to Roanoke	Denny/DPW	Ongoing	2
CHARLES RIVER PATH (red arrows)				
	1 Investigate improving pathway conditions in back of Walnut St office park buildings	Steve	Not Started	2
WOODLAND TRAILS (purple arrows)				
	1 Paintshop Pond: Approval & planning	Denny	Stalled	2
	2 Morses Pond: Monitor beach upgrade plans for trail access	Steve/Denny	Ongoing	1
	3 Boulder Brook: Install bog bridges across muddy trail	Denny/Scout	Spring	2
	4 Centennial: Improve footing/drainage and decrease pathway width on Maugus Hill upper meadow S trail	Steve	Ongoing	1
c	5 Boulder Brook: Repair broken stringer on footbridge behind Bates	Denny/DPW	Completed	1
	6 Centennial: Resolve trail access problem from Elizabeth Seton Residence	Steve	Ongoing	2
c	7 Centennial: Meet with DPW to discuss yearly mowing	Steve	Completed	1
OTHER PROJECTS/TASKS				
c	1 Advocate for trails and woodland buffers at North 40	Denny	In 5-yr plan	1
c	2 Work with Weston on planning a Wellesley to Concord regional trail	Steve	Modified, & in 5-yr plan	2
	3 Support Lisa Moore on Trails video tour series	Diane	Started	2
c	4 Conduct site visits and produce new 5-Year Project Plan	Steve	Completed	1
	5 Support NRC on new Open Space and Recreation Plan	Steve/Denny	Ongoing	1
c	6 Respond to Wellesley College trail map request	Steve	Closed	1
	7 Restore Garrity Brook Path and Crosstown wooden signs	Denny	Ongoing	2
c	8 Organize trails cleanup at Barton Rd with Wellesley Service League	Steve	Completed	1

c	9	Develop a plan for getting new trail built for connecting existing Wellesley Office Park trail to Rt-9		In 5-yr plan	1
c	10	Move Self-Guided to Favorite Trail Walks on website	Denny	Completed	2
C	11	Submit recommendations for Walnut St reconstruction	Steve	Completed	1
N	12	Get trail access approvals for new Hundreds Trail	Denny	Not Started	1

	<u>Project/Task</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Status</u>	
GENERAL/ADMINISTRATIVE					
	1	Generate publicity for trails, walks & events	Bob	Ongoing	
c	2	Organize fall trail walks	Bob/Denny	Jun 1 to Rec	Completed
c	3	Organize spring trail walks	Bob/Denny	Jan 1 to Rec	Completed
c	4	Setup sandwich boards for walks	Denny	Fall/Spring	Cancelled
c	5	Conduct Kids' Trails Day	Joan/Denny	Fall	Cancelled
	6	Update Trails Committee website	Denny		Ongoing
	7	Manage Facebook and Instagram websites	Bob		Ongoing
	8	Update, print and distribute maps/pamphlets	Denny		Ongoing
	9	Monitor trails and fill map holders	WTC		Ongoing
	10	Remove blowdowns	WTC/DPW		Ongoing
	11	Maintain 5 doggie bag dispenser stations	Joan (2), Laura, Denny, Jay		Ongoing
	12	Elect Committee officers for next FY	Chair	June 30	
	13	Send reappointment names of members/chair to NRC	Chair	June 30	
c	14	Submit Annual Town Report to NRC for previous FY	Chair	Aug 15	Completed
c	15	Submit Operating Budget for next FY	Chair	Sept 15	Completed
C	16	Update 5-Year Project Plan	Chair	Dec 2021	Completed
	17	Support NRC/CRWA Earth Day cleanup along Charles	WTC	April 23	
	18	Monitor encroachments reported by WTC for closure	Chair		Ongoing
	19	Support Green Collaborative	Denny		Ongoing
U	20	Support Mobility Committee	Joan/Jay		Ongoing
FIVE-YEAR PLAN STATUS (from Project Plan 2022-2026)					
	1	Paintshop Pond Trail			Started
	2	Sudbury Path connection to Natick			Ongoing
	3	Riverside Rail Trail			Monitoring
	4	North 40 Trails			Not Started
	5	Road Crossings and Sidewalks Advocacy			Ongoing
	6	Wellesley Office Park Trail Extension			Not Started
	7	Hundreds Path			Not Started
	8	Charles River Path Reroute at Ouellet Park			Not Started
	9	Rosemary Brook Trail Restoration at Town Forest North			Not Started
	10	Centennial Reservation Trails Restoration, Maintenance and Planning			Ongoing
	11	Trails Outreach			Not Started
SCOUT/SERVICE PROJECTS					
Projects Ideas					
	1	Approved Projects - Approved by WTC, Landowner, Wetlands and/or DPW as needed.			
	1				