

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2023

Attendees: Jay Prosnitz, Denny Nackoney, Rick Mongeau, Joan Gaughan, Diane Hall, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Bob Brown
Absent: Steve Park, John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova
Guests: Jen Bonniwell, Ezra Englehardt
Location: Warren Building, Children's Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 7, 2023, was made and seconded. The minutes were approved 5-0, with two abstentions (Joan Gaughan and Bob Brown were not present at the last meeting).

Jen Bonniwell was unanimously approved as a new Trails Committee member. The nomination will now go to NRC for final approval and appointment.

NRC Liaison:

Laura reported on NRC ongoing discussion regarding Article 42 and the Public Land Preservation Act, assessing dam at Longfellow Pond, consideration of Mobility Bike racks at more locations, and ongoing talks of NRC/Select Board with Sisters of Charity. The Wetlands Protection Committee decided to obtain an independent study on light and noise before further discussing the lighting proposed at the High School Football Field.

Centennial Reservation Meadow Update:

New Trails proposed at last meeting was approved by NRC. Steve and Denny flagged new trail. Project to cut new trail and brush in old trail is 9 a.m. on Sunday 4/23. DPW will subsequently reseed old trail.

Bike Safety:

Jay presented concerns with bikes speeding on Fuller Brook path. Specific clear and effective signage that could minimize risks of accidents discussed. Correct etiquette for all users was reviewed. Jay and Rick will bring sign drafts to the next meeting.

E-Bikes:

Recent legislation distinguishing E-Bikes and Motorized Vehicles was discussed. Concerns raised regarding E-Bike usage on the Fuller Brook Path. NRC may need to consider restrictions because of safety and path integrity. Jay will talk with Brandon Schmitt regarding E-Bikes allowed on trails and report back.

North 40 Update.

Denny took CPC Chair and two other members on a tour of North 40. Importance of keeping area as open space was discussed. Denny referenced 2014 position paper currently on website and the need for an update. Committee members will review and bring back suggestions to the next meeting.

Mobility Update:

National Grid will now be working on utilities on Weston Rd. Road repaving and sidewalk renovations north of Route 9 postponed until 2024.

Spring Walks:

We reviewed planned dates, locations, and guides. Jay is unavailable to lead the May 14 Spring Walk. Committee members were asked to consider.

Additional committee agenda items deferred until next meeting.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, at 7:00 pm at the Children's Room at the Warren Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Meeting handouts are available from the NRC office.

Submitted by,

Jay Prosnitz

Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee