

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2022

Attendees: Steve Park, Denny Nackoney, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Bob Brown, Laura Robert
(NRC Liaison)

Absent: Jay Prosnitz, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, John Schuler, Diane Hall

Guest: Miguel Lessing, Rick Mongeau

Location: Juliani Room, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 15, 2022 was made by Joan and seconded by Denny. Minutes were approved unanimously.

NRC Liaison

Denny presented the Hundreds Trail plan to the NRC. They have not received any comments from residents and will likely vote on it this Thursday. Denny is working with the Garden Close Condo Association on approval, and they will consider it at their next meeting.

A proposed Dog Jog event on the trails at Morse's Pond was not approved by NRC.

Joan asked about erosion control at Pine Point on Morses Pond. Laura thinks DPW in doing the installation work there and will look into it.

Mobility Update

Jay attended the last meeting but was absent tonight. Denny reinstalled the "Fiske School" sign in the Town Forest.

Eric pointed out that the Walnut Street repaving is going forward with the Trails Committee's preferred design with the 8' side path.

Spring Walks

Eric is leading the first walk this Saturday. He will check with Ekaterina that she's still available as sweeper.

Bog Bridges at Babson

Eric described the muddy conditions extending beyond the bog bridges on the Sudbury Path near the Babson skating center and asked about trail improvements or extending the bridges.

This has been a difficult wet area to deal with, and Denny suggested we reposition one of the bog bridges and improve the drainage along the side of the trail. Eric will mark out the wet areas so that when we go back to do a work day when it is drier we know the work area.

Last weekend, Eric replaced rusted-out screws securing the deck on the bridge behind the Babson conference center.

Boulder Brook bog bridge project

Denny has not been successful in trying to line up an Eagle Scout candidate for doing this bog bridge project with the Wellesley scout troops and plans to approach troops in adjacent towns. Laura suggested checking with the Girl Scouts, the Wellesley Youth Commission, or WHS senior project.

Centennial Reservation

Joan proposed a new trail along Sisters of Charity toward MassBay. This would provide an alternative to the upper meadow trail. We will need to talk to both landowners for approval. There is a lowland swale area that would require either a bog bridge or stepping stones. Steve proposed we do a site visit and discuss at our next meeting before proposing a route to the landowners. Site visit: **Mon May 9 at 12 pm at Maugus Ave. trailhead.**

Laura also suggested a trail through the woods on the other side. Denny expressed concern about habitat fragmentation with too many parallel trails.

Steve talked with Brandon about following through on the AMC proposal for improving the trail in the upper meadow. Brandon thought it was a good candidate for CPC funding. Steve's next task is to get a cost estimate and to figure out the options for the mix of DPW and AMC involvement in the work. Steve needs to figure out what sort of approval it needs from MassBay.

An informal trail was opened up from Cunningham Rd into Centennial, including spreading of wood chips. Brandon wrote to the neighbors on Cunningham to ask them to close the trail.

Denny suggests removing the posts that have been vandalized from the upper meadow. The committee decided to remove the bent posts and retain the posts that have not been vandalized at the top of the meadow.

Map house condition evaluation

We have 20 map houses. Status evaluation was last done in 2016. Steve visited all the map houses last month to evaluate their condition. 10 of the map houses have roof shingles in poor condition - missing, splitting, broken, curling, or rotted out. All the roofs in poor condition have cedar shingles. The Morses Pond access road map house is in the worst condition, with the roof fully rotted out.

Laura suggested we could do metal roof instead of re-shingling. Denny says the committee decided to move from cedar to asphalt shingles about 5 years ago. Those will last 30 years.

Laura and Steve will research alternative roofing materials and their costs.

Other topics

We discussed trail cleanups briefly. Bob mentioned the Charles River path behind Oulette Park could benefit from some work. Laura suggested that there's someone at WHS who has organized cleanups in the past.

Joan asked about marking the woodland paths near Pond Rd. We decided to hold off on exploring this further.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 31, 2022** at 7 pm in the Juliani Room at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Documents available by request: FY22 Project List (4/26/22), Map House status, Centennial Reservation proposed trail map.

Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee