

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May16, 2023

Attendees: Chair Jay Prosnitz, Committee members Denny Nackoney, Jen Bonniwell, Joan Gaughan, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Steve Park, Rick Mongeau, Bob Brown, Laura Robert (NRC).

Absent: Diane Hall, John Schuler

Guests: Sam Perozek

Location: Warren Building, Children's Room

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

Citizen Speak: None

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 13, 2023, was made and seconded. The minutes were approved 5-0, with one abstention (Steve Park not present at the last meeting).

NRC Liaison: Laura Robert shared these updates:

- A brand new weed harvester has been purchased and may be used by the end of the summer, pictures have been shared.
- Tree canopy study findings were shared at a recent NRC meeting. Education districts have the most planting potential. In the past 9 years, Wellesley College shows an 8% increase in tree canopy. On the whole, the town's tree canopy is OK, but if we want to reach long-term goals, we need to go from current planting of 127 trees a year, to 257 a year.
- Gift left for Bezanson Pond maintenance at Centennial Reservation
- NRC clarified lighting policy
- Field use study update pending later this week

Centennial Reservation Meadow Update:

- Members of the Trail Committee created a new trail in to address erosion along an existing trail. Seeding over of the old trail should happen soon. Unfortunately, some flags and signs have been removed by unknown people on boundaries of the new and old trails.
- The Trails Committee further discussed how its thoughts might be shared regarding the Sisters of Charity's plans to sell its property that abutts Centennial Reservation.

Brook Path Safety: Signs encouraging cyclists to yield to walkers was further discussed. A specific plan involving six identical signs placed at 5 locations was shared with the committee. Will explore whether to go to Design Review next or straight to NRC; will check with NRC. We estimate signs will cost less than \$500; Committee would install signs. Committee OK's plan to move ahead with sign approval process.

Electric bikes on the Brook Path. The State is encouraging more e-bike use, including point of sale rebates. Should e-bikes be allowed on the Brook Path given their weight and max speed? Can they be safely use on the Fuller Brook Path? Could they degrade the crushed stone path? The Committee decided more information needs to be obtained to more thoughtfully discuss at some later point. Jay will try to obtain this information.

North 40. Further Discussed update to July 2014 Trails Committee recommendation on North 40 land usage. Drafting letter to go to the Community Preservation Committee, Select Board, Natural Resources Commission, and other relevant town bodies. Will emphasize specific reasons for protecting land, including its use for nature walks. Jen and Jay to work on a draft and review with the Committee at the next meeting.

Map house repairs: Morses Pond access road map house fixed, and other repairs are underway for map houses. Work is being completed smoothly at this time.

Name tags: Jay suggested that name tags would be useful when Committee members are conducting guided walks or involved with other town events as members of the Trails Committee. Members commented that the name tags used by the Wellesley Land Trust should be considered. Joan will try to obtain more information regarding these name tags for the group to review at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20, 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