

**WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2023**

Attendees: Denny Nackoney, Bob Brown, Steve Park, Joan Gaughan, Jen Bonniwell, Diane Hall, Rick Mongeau, Laura Robert
Absent: John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova
Guests: Ezra Englehardt
Location: Childrens Room at Warren Building

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Citizens Speak: None

Minutes from the last Trails Committee meeting were unanimously approved. Laura was not at the last meeting and abstained.

Ezra Englehardt was unanimously approved as a new Trails Committee Member. Ezra's name will be forwarded to the NRC for final approval.

Update from NRC liaison, Laura Robert:

- NRC's pollinator habitat restoration at Simons Park has been planted and is now complete.
- Update on possible pickleball courts in parking lot at Morses Pond. Community discussion ongoing.
- Update on upcoming Sisters of Charity development is prompting town wide input and discussion.
- Natick is considering developing a nursing home facility with access to Pond Rd. In the conception phase. They have asked NRC to meet regarding conservation areas.

Denny discussed two Centennial Reservation trails that cross the Sisters of Charity property that need to be kept open. Denny and Jen put together a position statement on protecting trails and the environment, and suggested constraints on future development of the property. The position statement was approved by the committee, with Bob abstaining. Denny will submit our statement to appropriate town boards and committees addressing development of the property.

Steve continues to work on proposed Fuller Brook gate house safety signage.

Ekaterina is working on QR codes for map houses and trail promotional information.

Joan is working on a position statement on the North 40.

Diane and Jen gave reports on running Trails Committee information booths at the Library Volunteer fair and Babson Health Fair.

Discussion about blow downs and areas needing attention.

Suggestion made on requesting DPW not mow Centennial upper meadow this fall to keep the growth active through the winter and into next spring to encourage staying on current trail. Steve will contact DPW.

Reviewed plans and assignments for October 22 Kids' Trails Day. Confirmed plans for Nov 4 Boulder Brook walk led by Diane.

Denny gave a review of budget and current expenses. Stephen Garrity finished refurbishing the Brook Path sign.

Next trails meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13th, 7:00 at Warren Building.

Meeting adjourned 8:25

Documents distributed: WTC Project List 10-16-23, Centennial Reservation3draft., KTD plans and treasure hunt draft.

Submitted by,
Diane Hall
Member, Wellesley Trails Committee