WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2021

Attendees: Denny Nackoney, Diane Hall, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Jay Prosnitz
Absent: Bob Brown, John Schuler, Jeff Zupan, Steve Park
Location: Outdoors at 80 Prospect St.

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM. With Steve absent, Denny led the meeting as vice-chair.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 22, 2021 was made by Joan and seconded by Diane. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Jeff Zupan has resigned from the committee, and the committee wants to thank him for his service and for being the Trails’ representative to the Mobility Committee.

NRC Liaison update
NRC is focused on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The next step is a public. Trails would like to see the draft plan before it’s released. Laura will bring our request to the NRC.

Centennial Park conditions and maintenance work
Denny notes that the annual meadow mowing will take place soon, probably in November.
The site for a new shade tree near the parking lot has been selected by Cricket. It will be planted later this autumn.
Denny planned out the fencing for the S-curves in the upper meadow. To fence three curves of approximately 120 ft. each, the cost will be $350 dollars for fencing materials. Committee members will meet Saturday, Oct. 23 at 9 am at the Maugus Avenue entrance to install the fencing.
Laura suggested another “Private Property” sign at the lower end of the trail by the Elizabeth Seton Residence, as it’s the one closed trail that continues to be used. Also, it was suggested that the western trail leg be kept open with the eastern leg closed. Denny and Steve will look at it.

Denny reported finding that new trails and bike jumps had been built at Boulder Brook Reservation. He covered up the trails, disassembled the jumps, and posted a sign.

The committee will lead a Barton Road cleanup day with the Wellesley Service League. Steve and Denny are hosting it on Sunday October 24th 9am to 11am.
There were no new trail maintenance issues to report beyond what was covered above. We plan to update the trail assignments list next meeting to adjust for changes in membership.
5-year plan

Denny, Steve, Eric, and Laura did a site visit at Rosemary Brook, Ouellet Park and the Barton Road trail. Steve, Denny and Brandon revisited the Rosemary Brook area with Bill Shaughnessy of the Water Department because the Rosemary Brook area is managed mostly by the Water Department. Bill confirmed that the existing trail remnants do not interfere with Water Department assets or activities there. The cleared path adjacent to the brook is a sewer easement that is mowed regularly. Bill was amenable to considering trail parking at either the Route 9 pumping station or the Cedar St ramp, although the ramp area is a WMLP facility.

Walking the Newton Riverside connections is the last site walk to prepare the new 5-year plan. We will start at St. Mary St. November 6th or 7th (DST transition!) at 9am. The goal is to look at progress on the Newton side and have a better understanding of the connections.

Denny has put the Favorite Trail Walks page on the Wellesley trails website. Denny asked Lisa to put it in the NRC newsletter.

Joan will talk to Colette Aufranc of the Select Board about funding options for the Washington St sidewalk collection, as Colette has new information from the MAPC/LandLine funding presentation.

We had a total of 31 people attend the 3 autumn trail walks so far, which is low compared to previous years. It is unclear whether it is because of COVID concerns, publicity, or conflicting events. Jay raised the idea of a winter snowshoe trail walk. There was enthusiasm about snowshoeing, although concern about scheduling for a day with adequate snow.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 16th at 7 pm via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (10/20/21).
Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen,
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee