WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2021

Attendees: Steve Park, Denny Nackoney, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Jay Prosnitz, Bob Brown, Diane Hall
Absent: John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova
Location: Zoom

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

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 20, 2021 was made by Joan, seconded by Jay. Steve, Laura, Joan, Denny, Jay, and Eric vote in favor of approving the minutes. Bob wasn’t present at the last meeting, so abstains.

NRC Liaison
NRC is working on next year’s budget. There may be more funds for invasive removal in Boulder Brook and Centennial. There will be a public forum on December 7th for the Open Space and Recreation Plan. NRC will be placing a plaque on the Brook Path between Paine and Forest in memory of Toby Stover (former Wetlands Committee member). NRC is putting out an RFP for a field use/capacity study. NRC is discussing playing field lights at their next meeting. Laura shared how to find the Zoom meeting information.

Fall walks
The last walk of the series was on Halloween at Boulder Brook. About a dozen people attended. Attendance has been consistently lower than past years due to COVID-19 concerns. Denny noted that it does make the groups easier to manage.

Spring walks
The committee scheduled spring walks so that the dates are set in time to post on the Rec Department calendar. The committee settled on the following schedule and walk assignments:
April 30th Brook Path led by Jay
May 15th Grand Tour led by Steve. Diane will help lead.
May 21st Centennial led by Joan.
June 4th Carisbrooke led by Eric.

Reallocate trail monitor assignments.
With Miguel and Jeff no longer on the committee and Jay as a recent new member, assignments to monitor trail sections and refill map houses and doggie bag dispensers were redistributed.

5-year plan projects
Site visits are complete for six new trail sites. Steve reminded the committee that the plan is shared with other parts of town government to keep them aware of what our goals and priorities
Committee members are enthusiastic about including all the sites that we visited. We also discussed maintenance and advocacy items that will also be included in the plan. Steve will draft the plan and Denny will review it.

**Washington Street (Natick line) sidewalk funding update.**
Joan met with Select Board member Colette Aufranc and walked the area and shared information about the project including DPW estimates. Colette will investigate it further. Joan will continue to stay in touch with Colette so trails can provide support if necessary. Laura asked about the Historical Commission’s perspective. Steve and Joan noted that the Historical Commission had questions about design options.

**Centennial fencing vandalism and mowing**
 Trails committee put up fencing to extend the S-curves in the upper meadow to reduce erosion on October 23rd. Since then, the fencing has been repeatedly knocked down and signage has been torn down. Diane suggested more substantial fencing in the future. Denny noted that this was intended as a trial and that the metal worked at the upper part of the meadow, so it is surprising that it has fared so poorly.

Laura suggested new signs on the closed path that used to go straight down the hill, as it’s looking inviting to cut-through traffic as vegetation dies off. Diane suggested extending the s-curve rope-line fencing to block the straight path. Laura, Diane, Steve, and Joan will meet there Nov 17th to review the situation.

There are some places where instead of mowing the whole field, new “paths” were mowed next to some of the closed paths. Steve will follow up with Cricket about the mowing decisions at Centennial and will set up an in-person meeting at Centennial. Denny and Laura suggested including Tony who does the mowing.

**Other business**
Jay shared that the Brook Path at Cameron is not draining properly after rain storms and water is pooling on the pathway. He will contact Brandon and Cricket.

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, December 16th at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (11/16/21). Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen,
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee