



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rail Trail Committee

TRTC-Minutes-070813

Minutes: August 13, 2007

Topsfield Town Hall: 7:30 PM

Members present: Joe Geller, Nancy Luther, Gregg Demers, Kathie Tremblay
Visitors: David Anderson, Richard Gandt

Old Business

1. Review of minutes of previous meeting. Approved with minor edits.

New Business

2. Elections for Rail Trail Committee. Joe Geller was unanimously elected to continue as Chairman.
3. Results of 21(e) environmental test for contamination from Brian Woodland's property: Brian said his property passed the inspection. On the basis of the clean report he was approved for a bank loan to develop Topsfield Station.
4. Clean-up of Brian Woodland's property: The committee agreed to the clean-up which is tentatively scheduled for next month (September). Signage on the trail was discussed and we agreed to wait until approval for the trail is given by the Selectmen.
5. Railroad valuation map update: Joe showed and discussed the 4 maps covering Topsfield. David Merrill, Topsfield Open Space Committee, volunteered to review the title information on the maps. David is an expert in titles and deeds.
6. Results of meeting on July 11th 2007 with the Conservation Commission: The Conservation Committee approved our maintaining a 4 ft. trail width in areas under their jurisdiction. We were not given permission to maintain the path between the trail and the Beverly-Salem Waterway.
7. Results of meeting on June 27th 2007 with the Conservation Commission: our RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) was approved meaning that we now have to go through the lengthy procedure of a NOI (Notice of Intent). The ConsComm talked about problems with water coming from Parsonage Lane over Washington St. onto the trail. That water may move the stone dust. They also asked how we would keep the stone dust out of the resource areas. Question about environmental contamination were also raised.
8. TRTC Response to the Coalition's presentation to the Selectmen on July 9, 2007: Material was reviewed. It included the TRTC's comments to each of the slides in the presentation given by the Coalition at the Selectmen's meeting on July 9, 2007. It will also include the public activities of the TRTC and the questionnaire responses filled out after talking with the Phase I abutters. The re-routing of the trail around the tot-lot was discussed. We will meet with the Proctor School principal to discuss further.
9. B2B Task Force update: Mass Highway is providing funding to TransSystems for preparing a work statement that will be used in the bid process for the 25% design. This will cover Danvers through Salisbury. The NationalGrid will give permission for the trail on their land to be evaluated.
10. B2B walk: Oct. 21st is the planned date for a B2B "End-to-Center" walk. Participants will start in Salisbury and Danvers and walk to Camp Dennison in Georgetown for a party.