



Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rail Trail Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting August 16, 2011 – 8:30 PM

Members Present: Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Roy Baessler, Gregg Demers, and Katherine Carlson

Guests: Pete Hayes, Bill Rossiter and Glen Gollard

1. **Minutes approval:** The minutes of the July 6, 2011 meeting was approved unanimously.
2. **Knotweed Eradication update:** Katherine spoke with Mike McLean, head of pesticides for the state of Massachusetts, and he said that since we have a letter that authorizes us to spray the knotweed, and so long as the Conservation Commission agrees, we are all set to proceed with continued eradication in the area of Route 1. Roy then made a motion for the trail dedicated funds to pay for one more spaying of the knotweed not to exceed \$1,000. It passed unanimously.
3. **Recent Expenditures Review:** Joe then reviewed the expenditures this year to date for trail work and some immediate needs:
 - a. Bill Manuell, our wetlands consultant (\$2,940)
 - b. Northeast Nurseries, for siltation barriers as required by the Conservation Commission for the 1,400 feet identified as needing protection.(\$3,547). These are reusable and can be taken up and stored for future work. Joe made a motion to approve this expenditure which passed unanimously.
 - c. MAPC for shipping for bike racks. The cost of these is \$8,226 for 11 racks but this cost is reimbursable to us once we send in documentation and pictures that the racks are installed securely. We do have to pay for the cost of shipping (\$800) some of which will be contributed by the Topsfield Fairgrounds as a couple of the racks will be placed there but on the right-of-way. A motion to approve this expenditure which passed unanimously.
 - d. Stone dust purchase: Roy made a motion to purchase \$5,000 in additional stone dust to be available as it's needed by Iron Horse and our work parties. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Route 1 Crossing Update:** The Salisbury section of the Border to Boston Trail crosses Route 1 is being redone to go under the highway so they will be dismantling their Cross Alert system and we might be able to acquire it to use at our Route 1 crossing. Joe needs to write at letter to MassDOT with our request. Bill Bent, a retired Mass Highway engineer is advising us on the proper process.
5. **Erosion at Proctor School:** Joe and Glenn Gollard agreed to organize a work party for Saturday (Aug 20th) to put down some stone dust in the area mixed with cement to see if it might help with the water flowing over that area during heavy rains.

6. **IRB steps:** Based on previously submitted plans, the Conservation Commission has approved building one set of stairs for the south side of the bridge. These will be built to allow the fisherman access to the river bank instead of climbing over the railings. Dave agreed to build these over Labor Day weekend. Roy offered to send out a work party notice in an effort to get a few groups working on some of the trail maintenance for the long weekend.
7. **Crosswalk Painting:** Roy is looking into having crosswalks painted with the resilient thermoplastic paint for the trail's road crossings that are ready. These include route 97, Summer St., Washington St. (Main St. was already done) and restriping the bike lane in the town parking lot. He made a motion to expend \$1,700 in trail funds for this effort – it passed unanimously. He also contacted Wenham, for their route 97 crossing, to see if they would like to take advantage of when the striping contractor will be in Topsfield.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read