

RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2014

Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, Marshfield

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mike Bilas

IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Bilas, Chris Calos, Linda Cincotti, Vicki McPherson, Steve Robbins (Selectman), Jay Wennemer (Conservation Commission representative), Tom Whalen (CPC representative), Roger Whidden

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the October 1st meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Bilas met with Jay Wennemer to learn more about the conservation land and trails in Marshfield. He also met with a representative of the Woodlands Trust to discuss how the Trust might provide this Committee with some assistance in trail map training for members of this committee. Assistance was also offered to the Committee in the form of entering the data gathered by the Committee into the trail mapping computer system that is being used by the Conservation Department. Jay Wennemer stated that there still were 10 to 12 more trails that needed mapping. After discussion, it was agreed that all Committee would take part in the trail mapping process in the hope of completing all the mapping. The first proposed time for doing some trail mapping was the weekend of November 8th and 9th.

Chris Calos looked into recreational trails information available in Scituate and Duxbury. He found that both towns had many links on their town websites which then linked to other websites of private organizations and trails. While these links were informative, they sometimes were hard to maneuver and at times confusing. Chris also felt that Marshfield should design and implement a uniform format for gathering and displaying information on recreational trails.

Vicki McPherson gathered information on recreational trails in Hingham and Cohasset. She discovered that Hingham participates in a Green Way Initiative and also that the Hingham Land Trust has been responsible for putting together the towns trail maps. Vicki found that Cohasset had the least amount of information and, what was available was not really formalized. In Scituate, she learned that the CPC in Scituate seems to be the prime resource for information on recreational trails.

Jay Wennemer distributed trails maps of the Warf Creek Trails and the Jose Carreiro Woodland Trails that had been mapped out by him and Linda Cincotti.

Roger Whidden shared information he had on the user friendly maps that have been developed by the Sierra Club and other organizations.

REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT: Mike Bilas submitted some written ideas that could be considered in defining the Committee's Mission Statement and Goals. Tom Whalen distributed copies of a newspaper article in a local paper which applauded Marshfield's CPC for being open to listening to town residents ideas and concerns about the need for open space. After much discussion about our mission by the Committee, it was decided to put to a vote the following as the **Recreational Trails Committee's Mission Statement: To provide quality year round outdoor recreation opportunities for the residents of the town of Marshfield.** This was voted on and unanimously accepted as our mission statement.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE GOALS: Again, using some written suggestions from Mike Bilas, the Committee, after much discussion, configured a rough draft of a set of goals. They are as follows:

- 1- To promote accessibility and use of recreational trails for all the residents of Marshfield.
 - 2- To develop a current "state of trails" information system in Marshfield , displaying maps as well as indicating type of trail, distance , environmental factors, handicap accessibility ,parking, signage and onsite kiosks.
 - 3- Have all trail information posted online for public viewing and downloading as well as printed trail maps for use by the public.
 - 4- Work with other South Shore towns to encourage cooperation in promoting a contiguous trail system.
 - 5- Work cooperatively with other town departments and organizations to ensure that the Committee can meet its goals.
 - 6- Procure funding and seek resources necessary to accomplish these goals.
- **Several other items that were discussed were tabled and could be discussed at a future meeting.

NEXT STEPS: Tom Whalen handed out information concerning a Recreational Trails Grant Program offered and funded by the DCR. After reviewing the suggested project which qualified for applying for the grant, it was voted unanimously that this Committee should look into applying for this grant.

The next meeting for this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th.

ADJOURNMENT: Chris Calos moved to adjourn at 9:03pm. It was seconded and was unanimously voted to adjourn.

HANDOUTS: Minutes of October 1st Meeting, Trail maps: Warf Creek Trails and Jose Carreiro Woodland Trails, Newspaper article on Marshfield CPC, DCR Grant Information

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Cincotti, Clerk