

RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2015

Hearing Room 3, Town Hall, Marshfield

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Bilas, Linda Cincotti, Vicki McPherson, Tom Whalen, Roger Whidden

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the March 4th meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Bilas gave an update on the status of the Comprehensive Trails Plan proposal that the CPC is putting forth. Mike had proof read the original proposal but was not sure where the proposal now stood so he will contact the CPC to see if and when the proposal has gone out to bid. He said that the CPC wanted to get the proposal out to bid by the end of April. Tom Whalen reported that the DCR Grant Proposal has been completed and submitted but we probably would not hear about our request until July.

CHAMPION of GOALS: The committee members reviewed the 12 RTC Goals in an attempt to prioritize these goals and begin the process of accomplishing some of these goals. Tom Whalen suggested that goals #3 and #4 were really connected in that a “state of the trails” info system(#3) would be necessary in developing the descriptive guide (#4) that would be used by recreational trail users. Vicki McPherson stated that she has and is, walking and mapping out some of these trails for the Conservation Commission and that she would be interested in working with Tom Whalen on pursuing the implementation of goals #3 and #4. Vicki also felt that Jay Wennemer should be included in the development of a “state of trails “ info packet. In discussing how to proceed in developing a “state of trails” info packet, Mike Bilas said he had some relevant information in a trails guide book that could be useful. Roger Whidden and Tom Whalen also said that they had some books that could also be used in this process. Looking at goals #5 (Developing an online info resource) and # 12 (Develop a community outreach program), Tom Whalen mentioned the idea of creating a blog or weekly column in the local newspaper and/or a website that would chronicle what the RTC is doing and possibly highlight certain trails in Marshfield. Roger Whidden mentioned that the committee could institute a program whereby the RTC would organize and possibly lead weekly or monthly hikes /walks for Marshfield residents on these highlighted trails. Roger Whidden said the he would be interested in writing a RTC newsletter column and would contact the Marshfield Mariner to see if this was possible. A discussion ensued on the possibility of the RTC having its own website or possibly working within an already exiting town website. The Recreation Department website seemed to be a natural fit for RTC information. Mike Bilas said the he would contact the Marshfield Recreation Department to see if the RTC could include RTC information within the Recreation Departments website. The topic of town liability during these RTC organized hikes was mentioned. Mike Bilas said that he would look into any liability issues concerning these RTC

organized walks or hikes. Mike also mentioned the list of Marshfield groups and land owners that Chris Calos had developed could be a useful resource in promoting these goals.

TRAIL CLEAN UP: Tom Whalen reported that many of the exiting trails in Marshfield need to be cleaned up and cleared of falling branches, tree limbs and other debris. The committee discussed various solutions to this problem and ways to initiate trail clean up. It was felt that the Conservation Commission needed to be included in any and all discussions about trail clean up.

NEXT STEPS: In an effort to start the process of deciding which trails might be highlighted by the RTC, several walks of some trails were discussed. It was decided that the Webster Wilderness trails would be walked by several committee members on Sunday March, 29th.

The next meeting for this Committee is April 29th at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Mike Bilas moved to adjourn at 8:25pm. It was seconded and was unanimously voted to adjourn.

HANDOUTS: Minutes of March 4th, Agenda for present meeting, Copy of the RTC Mission Statement and Goals

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Cincotti, Clerk