

RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 6, 2015

Hearing Room 2, Town Hall, Marshfield

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Bilas, Chris Calos, Linda Cincotti, Vicki McPherson, Steve Robbins, Roger Whidden

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the March 25th meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Bilas gave an update on the status of the Comprehensive Trails Plan RFP that the CPC is putting forth. Mike stressed the importance of RTC committee members attending the CPC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 13th. At that meeting, the two firms that are being considered for the implementing the proposal would be presenting their RFPs. Mike advised that he had asked the chair of the CPC to see if the two firms that submitted proposals would specifically detail which deliverables they planned on providing.

Mike also presented a book on trail description that he has found useful as a hiker. He thought that the committee might be able to use it in composing an RTC trail checklist. This book detailed many different aspects of trails including level of difficulty, length and accessibility. The committee discussed the value of having a checklist that could be used by anyone using a recreational trail in Marshfield. Mike Bilas volunteered to put together a checklist based on the prototype used in the book.

Vicki McPherson gave the committee an update on her trail mapping. She was going to be meeting with a town resident whose property bordered the Pilgrim Trail. This resident was interested in preserving the Pilgrim Trail and wanted to talk with Vicki about some issues concerning that. Also, Vivki, Roger Whidden and Tom Whalen recently walked the trails on the Webster Wilderness. Vivki stated that it was exciting to see that some of the existing trails could eventually be connected to each other.

REVIEW OF MARINER NEWS ARTICLE: Roger Whidden presented a draft of an article to be submitted to the Marshfield Mariner titled, "Nature and Nurture". The committee agreed that it was a well written and informative article and that, hopefully, it would prompt people to become interested not only in what the RTC was about but would also motivate them to utilize some of the wonderful walking/hiking trails in Marshfield.

Roger asked the committee for guidance in writing future articles. It was suggested that future articles might reflect a diversity of use as well as looking at different types of areas in all parts of town. Also, it was suggested that there be more specifics about the trail being highlighted.

REVIEW OF RTC ADOPT A GOAL: Linda Cincotti stated that she would like to become involved in pursuing RTC goal number 10, which speaks to the issue of working with other town committees, Departments and private agencies for the purpose of achieving the RTC goals. She suggested contacting these committees, Departments and agencies and providing them with an introduction to the RTC, its mission and its goals. Additionally, the committee could ask them to keep the RTC in their “loop” so to speak, where recreational trails, existing and proposed, are concerned. The committee discussed forming a cover letter as well as an informational sheet that could be given to these various groups. Steve Robbins stated that the Selectman’s office and Town Administrator’s office might be of help in disseminating this information. Chris Calos suggested using the draft of an information sheet that he had composed for the committee. The committee agreed that The RTC information sheet would be very useful. Linda said she would follow up on this project.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF CONTACT INFO/FORM LETTER FROM RTC: Chris Calos also presented to the committee a draft of an RTC contact information sheet listing contact info for various local, state and private organizations. It was agreed that this info sheet would be very beneficial to the committee.

NEXT STEPS: The committee decided to schedule a special RTC committee meeting within the CPC meeting on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00pm.

The next monthly meeting for this Committee is June 3rd at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Mike Bilas moved to adjourn at 7:59pm. It was seconded and was unanimously voted to adjourn.

HANDOUTS: Minutes of March 25, Agenda for present meeting, Trail map of Webster Wilderness, Draft of Mariner news article, RTC information sheet, RTC contact information sheet

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Cincotti, Clerk