RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2015

Hearing Room 3, Town Hall, Marshfield

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Mike Bilas
 IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Bilas, Chris Calos, Linda Cincotti, Greg Guimond (Town Planner), Vicki McPherson, Tom Whalen (CPC representative)
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the November 19th meeting were unanimously approved.
REPORT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Bilas attended a meeting of the Wetlands Trust where he learned about their organization and how they worked to accomplish their goals. For example, he heard how they were able to develop a program whereby they would have volunteers participate in walking and monitoring their trails. They also provided Mike with a trail management program guide that we (the committee) might use in the future. Mike provided some information to them on how trails are described for the public. His resource was a guide book that he uses when deciding which trails to hike on Cape Cod.
Vicki McPherson has continued to map out trails in the Carolina Hill area.
STATUS REPORT ON THE DCR GRANT: Mike and Tom Whelan met with Carolyn Shanley to go over the proposed scope of the project/s that would be addressed in the DCR grant. The scope would just address the issue of developing a town wide map which would include all resources, town and privately owned lands (e.g. Wetlands Trust). An audience member asked about the town map that had been created in 2002 for the town's Master Plan and, could that map be of use to our committee. Tom Whelan stated that since the town had purchased about an additional 600 acres since 2002, that a new updated map was necessary in order for the committee to accomplish its goals. Tom Whalen mentioned that MapQuest has already been contacted for a proposal and price for this proposed project. The due date for the submission of the completed application is the first week in February 2015. Tom and Mike will continue to meet with Carolyn Shanley but they are confident that the application will be completed and submitted on time to the DCR.
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON BIKE PATHS: Greg Guimond, Marshfield Town planner, prepared and presented to the committee, a town map which had exiting paths and trails which are being used as bike trails as well as other exiting paths, roads and trails which could be developed into valid bike trails. His purpose for creating this map was so that the committee could review what presently exits as bike trails, and, also review what areas could be developed into bike trails in the future. Carolina Hill Area, the old rail trail and the bridal path were some of the areas talked about as potential areas to be looked at. Greg also mentioned that the committee might want to focus on one maybe two areas which could be developed as a bike trail instead of trying to address all exiting paths in town. He also talked about the need for a comprehensive recreational trails plan. This plan should show how trails could connect with other recreational areas and perhaps, businesses in town. Greg also mentioned that there exists a long term town plan for the resurfacing of roads and sidewalks which might help the committee when deciding which areas could be developed into bike trails. Tom Whalen mentioned that there are companies who could review and asses the town's current recreational trails resources. This assessment would help the committee devise an overall plan as well as highlight those areas which would be best

developed into bike and other recreational trails. The possibility of procuring CPC funds for the purpose of hiring one of these companies was mentioned. One area of focus for the committee would be assessing the possibility of developing a bike trail using the old rail trail.

An audience member raised the issue of developing trails that would be designated multi-use trails and questioned the impact multi-use trails might have on exiting equestrian trails. ATV use on current trails was also discussed. Setting aside a separate trail for ATV use was discussed as a possible way to cut down on the misuse of hiking, biking and equestrian trails. A discussion ensued on the definition and use of multi-use trails. Mike Bilas stated that one of the committee's goals is to try to be all inclusive as far as who could make use of recreational trails. An audience member suggested that in goal number 8, that equestrian use, also be included in the concept of "multi-use." The committee decided that it would address all forms of recreational use (where appropriate) of trails when they were considering trails use and development. Therefore, the addition of equestrian use would not need to be added to goal number 8 but would be noted as a consideration when assessing trail development.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE GOALS: After reviewing the rough draft of the goals, it was decided by the committee, to add number 12 since the committee had, in the past discussed the possibility of developing an outreach program. Mike Bilas asked for a vote to accept these goals. They were voted on and, unanimously accepted.

1- Promote accessibility and use of recreational trails for the residents of Marshfield.
2- Prepare a comprehensive trail map of Marshfield showing all public access recreational trails including town owned as well as other organizations.
3- Develop a current "state of trails" information system in Marshfield, more specifically town controlled land (number and location, have trails been established, have trails been mapped, etc).
4- Develop a trail description guide for users to include maps, difficulty of trail, distance, environmental factors, accessibility factors, parking, signage and kiosks.
5- Develop a public "on line" resource of trail information for use including the ability to download.
6- Develop a program for trail monitoring and trail maintenance.
7- Develop a "community" of Marshfield groups to support the monitoring and upkeep of our trails.
8- Develop multi-use trails to include bicycles, pedestrians as well as others uses where deemed appropriate.
9- Work with other South Shore towns to encourage cooperation in promoting a contiguous trail system.
10- Work cooperatively with other town departments and organizations to ensure that the committee can meet its goals.
11- Seek appropriate funding and resources necessary to accomplish these goals.
12- Develop a community outreach program which would solicit input and encourage support for the Recreational Trails Program.

CREATE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTACT PEOPLE: Chris Calos raised the issue that the committee does not have a comprehensive list of organizations and contact people that included organizations that were within the town and outside of the town. He felt that a list of this sort would be of great help to the committee. The committee agreed and Chris volunteered to develop this list. Members of the committee were to provide him with the names of any organizations they felt appropriate.

NEXT STEPS: The committee decided that in an effort to achieve our goal of developing a recreational path using the old rail trail, certain steps needed to be taken. Those steps were: 1) Identify the property in question and the owner/s of said property. To that end, Vicki McPherson would retrieve information from the Assessor's Office on the present stakeholders of the Marshfield section of the rail trail, 2)

Involve Town Counsel in this process, 3) Continue to seek out funding for this project. Bike Bilas stated that before any discussion takes place with town counsel, we would need to discuss this through official channels.

Additionally, Tom Whalen and Mike Bilas will continue working on completing the DCR Grant application and Chris Calos will develop a contact list for the committee.

The next meeting for this Committee is scheduled for Thursday January 29th at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Mike Bilas moved to adjourn at 8:30pm. It was seconded and was unanimously voted to adjourn.

HANDOUTS: Minutes of November 19th meeting, Agenda for present meeting

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Cincotti, Clerk