

Williamsburg Woodland Trails Committee

Minutes of the September 11, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by chair Paul Jahnige. Also present were members Dwight Baghdoyan, John Hoogstraten, David Weber, Gwen Blodgett, Eileen Keegan, Diane Merritt.

Minutes- minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting were approved as amended

Communications- We received a request from the town for a submission to the town newsletter. PJ will take care of it.

We received a payment of \$4125 from the Mass Humanities Grant.

Resignation- Karin McGowan is resigning from the committee, creating an opening for a new member.

Historic Dam Trail- PJ met with Jack Loveless of Smith College. He is requesting use of the trail for a class GIS project. The committee honored his request.

Horse Mountain Project- Members DW, JH, GB, DB, EK, SL led by Jim Lemkin and guest, met on August 19, for trail exploration. They walked the bridle path trail and bush wacked to a dirt road and completed a return loop. The committee has not established a route to white rock, since there is private ownership between the Horse Mountain Project property and white rock. Next step is to refine the route of the loop trail and construct a GPS map to submit to the Williamsburg and Hatfield conservation commissions. DW suggested we walk the boundaries, flag the chosen route and delineate the trail head and parking area. The project requires a trail sign, kiosk and split rail fence. We will receive \$3100 from Kestrel for expenses. DB suggested we locate the trail this fall and take care of other details this winter.

A second trail scouting meeting will take place on site at 9:00 a.m. on September 30.

On-trail dog regulations- The department or organization responsible for the property a trail is located on will determine trail use by dogs. For example: the conservation commission requires that dogs be leashed on Briar Hill and Hall conservation areas. No dogs will be allowed on the Horse Mountain property. There was some discussion of sign placement. The website will be updated with the dog regulations for each trail.

Fall Trail Maintenance-

Hall- GB, Graves Sanctuary-EK, O'Neil Hill-SL, Big View-DM, Breckenridge and Bradley-HLT, Petticoat Hill-PJ, Dam Trail- JH, Briar Hill- DB

HLT Land Steward- This term's land steward, Brigid, will monitor 4-5 UMass students who will provide 8-10 hours of service at the Bradley and Breckenridge properties.

Kiosk vandalism-We have been notified of vandalism to the kiosk at the Route 9 entrance to the Breckenridge property. It has been reported to the town and they have notified the police.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Merritt

