

Williamsburg Woodland Trails Committee

9/14/16 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by chair Paul Jahnige. Also in attendance were members Eileen Keegan, Gwen Blodgett, Sarah LaPointe, Dwight Baghdoyan, John Hoogstraten and visitors Mary Dudek, Tamsin Flanders, and Phil Merritt.

A motion was made and seconded (JH/DB) to approve the minutes of the 8/10/16 meeting as amended. Passed unanimously.

Cultural Council member Mary Dudek reported that she has been in communication with the Massachusetts Cultural Council regarding our project and potential application for funding. She will follow up with the question regarding the project being located partially on private property, noted that we will need to specify a dollar amount of our request, the application deadline of October 16th (online only), and that she considered our project to fall within the parameters of the program guidelines. PJ will follow up with the application.

TF mentioned that Massachusetts Humanities Council may also be a source of funds for the project. PJ will follow up.

PJ welcomed Hilltown Land Trust/MassLift member Tamsin Flanders to the meeting as a prospective committee partner for the next eleven months. The committee discussed with her what her interests were and potential projects for the upcoming term.

The committee chose Sunday, October 16th for an introductory “soft-opening” hike at the new Historic Dam Trail. The event will be at 1 p.m. and will be publicized via the regular methods.

DB and JH volunteered to clear large windfalls from the Briar Hill trail. The committee also tentatively set a work day at the property on a date TBD in November.

GB and SL reported that they walked the Breckenridge trails, took care of some miscellaneous maintenance needs, and examined the new Rt. 9 spur. SL and TF will follow up with the HLT regarding any needs for that trail.

PJ shared drafts of potential interpretive signage for the Historic Dam Trail, as well as an example of a type of signboard used by MA DCR. PJ will continue to take the lead on efforts to develop interpretive materials for the project, in conjunction with Eric Weber, Ralmon Black, members of the Mill River Greenway Initiative, and others.

JH will begin planning for the construction of the trailhead kiosk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by John Hoogstraten