

## **Holland Trails Committee Minutes**

Date: March 23, 2017

Present: Richard & Chris Haller, Fred Beaulieu, Jackie Proko, and Stacy Riley

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Dick Haller. The minutes were approved as read.

### **Old Business**

Ideas were discussed which could enhance community participation. A first step should be identifying community leadership to build alliances and increase outreach. Trivia items regarding town trails could be placed in the H.R.A. or Center newsletters. Fliers could be written targeted to different interest levels. Activities (birding, for example) could be arranged.

At our next meeting we will discuss a possible recruitment event.

Anne Hall has scheduled a clean-up day for Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd. The Highway Department will work that day and will provide a dumpster. Meet at 9 AM at the Center.

The Committee agreed to help to inform residents.

The 2017 calendar was approved with minor changes.

It was voted to list the spring trail ride and paddle with the Last Green Valley's Spring Outdoors.

The Trails Committee budget and the annual report have been submitted.

### **New Business:**

On Wednesday, March 29th, at 6:30, the Holland Community Center is hosting a presentation by the Sierra Club on effective activist training. Participants will learn about state clean energy policy, and tips will be given on effectively advocating with elected officials.

Fisheries and Wildlife has clarified its position on trails. Bill Davis, manager of MassWildlife's Central District says people will be required to stop maintaining local trails that are on WMAs and let nature reclaim them with new growth.

"We're asking the folks that made the trails to simply abandon them and let them revert to their natural condition for the benefit of wildlife and take them off maps and websites," he says.

In Brimfield the scout land has been acquired as well as about \$6,000. Pipeline acquisition continues to progress. A grant for the final engineering of the bridge to span the Quinebaug has been submitted.

A Sturbridge Trail Guide has been produced. It is available at the Sturbridge Town Hall

Dick contacted Chris Curtis at Pioneer Valley regarding Holland's omission from the Pioneer Valley Guide map. He sent him a copy of our map with a request for a future revision.

We will discuss explorations of public lands and possible trails at our next meeting.

The Opacum pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 1st, at 8:30 AM in the Community / Senior Center. The event is free, and it is a good chance to support a worthy organization and to meet other people active in land preservation and recreational usage.

Our terms are up the last day of June. There may be some vacancies to fill, including chairman.

At our April meeting we will address possible future projects and consider the direction of the Committee. We will also plan the May meeting with an eye toward publicizing it widely to encourage new participation.

**Upcoming dates:**

Wed., March 29th: Sierra Club Presentation, 6:30 PM (Center)

Sat., April 1st: Opacum breakfast, 8:30 AM (Center)

Sat., April 22nd: Holland Clean-up, 9:00 AM (Center)

Thur., Apr. 27th: our next meeting, 7:00 PM (Town Hall)

Sat., May 6th: work day, 8:30 AM

Sun., May 21st: Paddle the Quinebaug, 9:00 AM

Sat., Jun. 3rd: Trail Ride 10:00 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Richard Haller  
Chairman / Secretary

