

Holland Trails Committee Minutes

Date: September 25, 2024

Present: Richard & Chris Haller, Jeff Frohn, Bob Pellicane, Police Chief Bryan Haughey, Laney Wilder and Sam Deluca both from Opacum Land Trust

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting was convened remotely. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Dick Haller. The minutes of the meeting held July 24, 2024 were approved.

Chris presented the treasurer's report. The balance is \$2,350.

Old Business

A work day was held August 15th. There were 5 participants. Water bars were installed.

The police and fire departments are interested in the numbering of posts to expedite an emergency response. We will work on appropriate wording.

Our Walktober event is scheduled. We will host an exploration of the Blue Trail from 10 to 12 on Saturday, October 5th.

The drop-off at the trailhead is a safety concern. Temporary stakes and caution tape have been installed. Fencing will be a permanent solution.

New Business

Chief Haughey explained the need for enforceable bylaws. He presented for discussion a draft of possible bylaws to be voted on at town meeting. The proposal was discussed. The Chief will update and improve the draft.

The installation of a gate on Stafford Road was also discussed. A key would be made available to this committee as well as the Police, Fire, and Highway Departments.

Director, Laney Wilder explained the role of Opacum Land Trust in the Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest. The Committee has presented possible improvements to the trail system and Opacum has sixty days to act on them.

On August 18th Dick and Laney walked the trails to familiarize her with the desired improvements to the trail system.

There is no procedure in place, but it is hoped that the Director will be able to approve standard trail improvements such as benches and short bridges, boardwalks, and stepping stones.

We will also need approval from the Conservation Commission.

Laney reported a decision to move the mushroom walk to Dingley Dell. At some point the question of whether or not fees can be charged for activities on public land will have to be resolved.

She also introduced Sam Deluca who will be working with Opacum and could be a valuable resource for Holland.

On August 27th, Dick attended a Conservation Commission meeting which was also attend by Jim LaMountain who presented a letter which accused the Trails Committee of various misdeeds. The letter contained numerous false statements, however, the Committee is committed to following the correct procedures, and will do so once it is clear what they are.

Jessica Wales, Con Com Chair, will investigate whether a Notice of Intent or a Request for Determination will be required and will let us know before their next meeting which is scheduled for October 8th.

It was decided to postpone a fall workday until these matters are resolved.

Dick has resigned from the Open Space Committee. The Trails Committee is supposed to be represented on Open Space, but there is no need to consider representation until the OpenSpace Plan is approved by the Commonwealth.

Our next meeting was moved to Wednesday, October 30th, because it seemed that a quorum would not be present on the regularly scheduled date.

Because of holiday conflicts, it was decided to have the meeting following that on December 11th which will be our last meeting in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Richard Haller
Chairman