

Holland Trails Committee Minutes

Date: June 29, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Dick Haller. The minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

The cost of the anti-litter signs was actually \$125.65. The revised expenditure was approved unanimously.

Bulky Day has been scheduled for August 19th, 8:00-12:00. The Trails Committee is not being asked to cover any of the cost

The work day had 6 participants. All planned tasks were accomplished.

Fred explored the potential for the Old Holland Road extension. He reported that the site is worth further exploration, but he recommends that this be done in the fall when visibility will improve. The Committee came to the same conclusion regarding the Fuller Dam site.

The Committee has also visited the Burgess Nature Trail. We examined a number of construction details which could be useful in the future.

The trail ride had 4 riders including two who were new to the trail.

The Committee discussed the possibility of a scavenger hunt. Possibly one could be designed for the Center Trail. It could be introduced at the Zucchini Fest. Chris will talk to the library about this and other possible nature activities.

The Committee discussed the possibility of themed walks using Holland Trails. Some ideas: a walk (or snowshoe) with a naturalist, a birder, an historian, or an archaeologist. Possible community resources include Jen Ohop, Scott Gerrish, the Bird Store and More, Larry Lowenthal, and Ed Hood. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

There is also interest in having a gathering at the Community Center to discuss the area around Lake Siog as it was before flood control.

The Committee voted unanimously to commit to have a table at Show Up Brimfield Holland Wales. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 5th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The shifts will be as follows: 10-11 Chris, 11-12 Dick, 12-1 Fred. Anne will be asked to cover 1-2, as Jackie is unavailable. It may be possible to share a table with the Brimfield Committee.

New Business:

The vision of the Trails Committee remains one of grassroots organizing in which we seek not only to construct a trail system, but to create a sense of community and purpose. We will continue to seek grants primarily for materials.

A principle goal is to get people to use the assets we already have. We also will continue to seek volunteers, possibly by recruiting them for a specific task. We also hope to do more to involve other organizations (Scouts, Americorps, etc.).

Other goals, for this year, include a fall walk, a winter snowshoe, themed walks led by others, explorations of the Fuller Dam site and the Old Brimfield Road extension. We also plan to use press releases to heighten awareness of our activities.

The Committee discussed responsibilities for the coming year. Chris volunteered to serve as treasurer. The position of secretary is vacant with Dick serving for now. It is hoped that someone will consider taking over the job of promoting our activities.

The Committee decided to participate in the Zucchini Festival scheduled for August in 20th. We will have a table from 12:00 to 4:00. We will discuss shifts at our next meeting. Chris will let Brenda know that we will be participating.

Our Oct. 15th walk will be listed as a Walktober event.

The bill for the portable toilet will due in July. The Committee voted unanimously to expend \$450 for this purpose.

We will discuss at our next meeting whether or not to meet in August.

The following names will be submitted to the Selectmen for appointment: Richard Haller, Christine Haller, Fred Beaulieu, Jackie Proko, and Anne Hall.

The Committee extends its thanks and well wishes to Stacy Riley who was one of the founding members of the Committee in 2012. Her contributions and the spirit she brought to our meetings and events are very much appreciated.

upcoming dates:

Sun., July 9th: Tour de Opacum

Thu., July 27th our next meeting

Thu. Aug. 24th August meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Richard Haller
Chairman / Secretary