

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2020

Present: Carol Macleod (chair), Ralph Nimitz (co-chair), Jane Quigley, Debbie Scranton

Guests: Shannon Pytlik via telephone conference call regarding the Bike Trails portion of the Agenda

Called to order at 6:40 PM, August 24, 2020 minutes approved as written, Roll Call taken. No additions or deletions to Agenda

Gateway to White Rocks acquisition from Fernfield Farms (Ice Bed, Hartsboro Roads)

Betsy McGean (Director of Philanthropy) and Kate Wanner (Trust for Public Land), plus three Wallingford residents interested in fund-raising: Richard Korchack, Jason Slibeck, Don Glendenning) Will lead a three-hour walk of the White Rocks Gateway land on Thursday, October 8 at 10 AM. Meet at the pull-out on the east side of Hartsboro Road opposite 1372 Hartsboro Road. All interested Parties welcome.

Bike Trails with Jumps/Obstacles

S. Pytlik asked if Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator, could make available copies of the survey On recreation in general in town, and Stone Meadow in particular.

The Selectboard determined, based on recommendations of Wade Masure from the insurer, Vermont League of Cities and Towns, on 09/08/2020, that no bicycles should be allowed on the trails in Stone Meadow. The exception would be the wide main surpac path leading from Waldo Lane to the beach, as It is suitable for multi-use with bikers riding single file, and pedestrians having the right-of-way, and Because it is a safe way to access the beach, and not have to be on Route 140.

An option suggested by the Pytliks was a circular bike obstacle path to be built in the middle of the main meadow was not approved by any WCC members, as it is a focal point of the conservation area with diverse Wildlife and plants. S. Pytlik had an alternative place in the northwest corner, and C. Macleod reiterated the southeast portion of Stone Meadow that would not cross any existing paths. S. Pytlik and C. Macleod agreed to meet to walk both of these possible areas.

R. Nimitz also said the WCC would support building of bike jumps in a portion of the recreation area where It would be more in keeping with existing recreation facilities (basketball, tennis, playground, ball fields) And the proposed new skateboard area.

Updates/Next Steps at Stone Meadow

The Road Crew provided two temporary signs banning bicycles on all but the main beach trail, installed By C. Macleod. At the request of the Selectboard, the WCC was to cover over the “Bicycles Permitted” Portion of the main signage. C. Macleod has taped over this area, but the duct tape has been Removed twice as of this meeting.

We agreed on ordering two main metal Kiosk signs (3’ x 2’) with changed verbiage on bicycles.

We also agreed to 3 trail signs, similar to the signs of the Road Crew, metal 8” x 11”, not allowing Bicycles on any but the main beach trail. Two signs to go on the main Beach Trail, one on the Rim Trail.

We also have 4000 printed brochures that allow bicycling. The map portion of the brochure is fine, We will have to re-word the brochure to address bicycling changes and an expansion of the reclamation Of the former gravel pit and stump dump, and the history of its donation in 1919 ‘to be used as a park for The enjoyment of the town’s people” by Lucretia Kent Stone in honor of her husband.

We will meet later in the fall when the vegetation has died down to discuss clearing of the trail near The copse, and tidying up the felled trees taken for the Audubon plan.

The jumps on the Rim Trail will need to be removed. Some of the trails have been worn down to A “V” in the middle by bikes, and we will need to fill those in, and put bark on trails in spring.

We will not be mowing the meadows for the next 2-3 years.

Bees remain for future planning before spring.

Budget:

Our new funds from the Town of Wallingford are \$2500, with no expenses thus far.

New Business:

Len Cadwallader will donate and deliver a picnic table, possibly set by the tree copse.

Work Meeting

Sunday, October 4, 10:00 to work on Rim Trail, filling in ruts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Next meeting is Monday, October 26, at 6:30 at Town Hall. Masks required.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton

Approved: 10/26/20