

TOWN OF NORFOLK  
Rails to Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Town Hall, Norfolk, CT

Committee Members Present: Dave Beers, Bill Couch, Michelle Childs, Rob Gilcrest, West Lowe

Others Present: Willey Wood, Ellen Walker, Diane Pierce & Matt Riiska

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 PM

Matt Riiska was sworn in by Bill Couch as the newest official member of the committee.

Review of minutes of the January 14, 2016

Motion by RG to accept the minutes as presented, WL Second, Passed (Unanimous)

Dave Beers distributed the committee contact list and asked all to provide their email address & phone number.

Dave Beers provided an update on the North Brook Trail

- Dave & Michelle Childs worked on clearing more brush from the trail clearing to open up views of the surrounding area.
- Committee is looking into using/acquiring either the land on the east side of Route 272 currently owned by Michael Sinclair (Taighean Builders) or the land on the west side of 272 owned by the Catholic Church, St. Mary's Cemetery to be used for trail access & parking.
- Matt will contact Lou Barbagallo

Dave walked the trail with Mike Dwyer Unit Manager of the DEEP

Mike was enthusiastic about our plans and will work with the Norfolk Rails to Trails Committee to have a gate constructed on the west end of the North Brook Trail at Ashpohtag Road.

They also discussed signage on the trail to inform individuals using the trail about staying on the trail and not wandering onto private property.

Bill Couch informed the Rails to Trails Committee about the Norfolk Land Trust meeting on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bill will update the Land Trust on the Rails to Trails plans and a planned parking area at the point where the Stoney Lonesome & North Brook Trails meet.

“Week End in Norfolk”; August 5 – 7, 2016

The Rails to Trails Committee is planning on having a tent at the Farmers Market.  
Motion by MC to reserve a space at the Farmers Market on Saturday, August 6, WL  
Second, Passed (Unanimous)

#### Fund Raising

Diane Pierce reported for her mother, DaVere Oakes, that DaVere and Erick Olson have submitted an application for a 2016 Doppelt Family Trail Development grant for the sum of \$5000. The Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund is administered by the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Wiley Wood suggested that the Committee look into funding through the AKC Fund, a fund set up by the Childs & Lawrence families to support local projects. Michelle will work on an application.

#### Mission Statement

Dave provided statement for the group to review:

“To develop a multiuse, handicapped accessible, trail through town that utilizes parts of the abandoned rail bed.”

Dave asked committee members to review the statement and be prepared to discuss it at our next meeting.

#### Trail Map

Rob updated the committee on the trail map and how he is working on section views so quotes acquired to be used to create a budget. He will start with the North Brook Trail first.

Bill asked Rob to review sight lines at the point where the North Brook Trail meets Route 272.

#### Review of Trail map and ownership of properties bordering the trail.

West reviewed the work that Star Childs had done reviewing the ownership of the properties that could impact the development of the trail.

The committee will review the currently proposed trail and how its path could be affected by landowners along the trail.

Dave noted that he is trying to have a representative of the National Rail Trail Group attend our March meeting.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at: 8:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Matt Riiska, Acting Secretary