

TOWN OF NORFOLK
Rails to Trails Committee

Mission

“To develop a multiple use handicapped accessible trail through Norfolk utilizing parts of the existing railroad bed.”

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, November 10, 2016
Town Hall, Norfolk, CT

Committee Members Present: Bob Gilcrest, Dave Beers, Michelle Childs, Erick Olsen, Jerry Oakes & Matt Riiska

Also Present were: Fr. Iain Hight of the Immaculate Conception Church, Neil & Amy Daley

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Minutes

Review of minutes for October 13, 2016 meeting: Motion DB to accept, Second EO; Passed – Unanimous

Treasure’s Report

Nothing to Report

Updates:

Mapping – No Update

BG will be working on the proposed parking area at the St. Mary’s Cemetery Property on Route 272

- Easement required from State DOT to allow a cut (entrance) on Route 272 for parking lot.

DB noted that we will need a letter from the St. Mary’s Cemetery Committee to cross their property to access the trail.

Father Iain informed the board that he will need to contact the Archdiocese of Hartford, who makes the final decision on the use of the St Mary’s Cemetery property. There is the concern in regards to liability. The R2T committee will need to further investigate this. He did express his support and enthusiasm with the project.

DB will work on a letter that Father Iain can use to explain the R2T plans and how their property will be used.

Booth at the Town Hall on Election Day went well. Many showed interest & support in the R2T project.

EO will work on generating a list of supporter and interested parties from the list collected at the Farmers Market, Car Show, Weekend in Norfolk & Election Day events.

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The list will be mainly used to send out via email information on our progress, events & solicitation for fund raising and volunteers.

CT Trails Symposium

JO attended the CT Trails Symposium will be held on Thursday, October 20. He said it was well attended with issues such as fund raising, legal issues and how to generate support were discussed. He also spoke to Rista Melanca & Laurie Giannotti who expressed their enthusiasm on our project.

CT Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

BG went through the grant application

BG noted that all letters of support should be sent to Laurie Giannotti directly at laurie.giannotti@ct.gov. She has already started a file for our project. Bob Gilchrest should also be copied so letter can be attached to the hardcopy of the report.

BG presented photos and maps that will be included in the application.

Neil & Amy Daley who live on Litchfield Road at the point where the rail bed crosses Route 272 expressed support of the project, but that we need to make sure all towns people are updated on the project. They noted that when they lived in Barkhamsted a trail was being proposed but land owners lost interest because of the lack of information and openness of the trail committee.

MC is generating a list of maintenance processes, from having individuals act as sponsors, having businesses sponsor portion of the trail and how the town public works department might be used for assistance when needed.

MR will work on Section III, Part 6, Public Participation portion of the grant application. This will include the development of the R2T website, attending local event such as the Farmers Market, Weekend in Norfolk and the Norfolk Car Show as ways to get the word out.

DB mentioned that Ryan Craig of the new Berkshire Country Store is looking into marketing a granola mix that will be labeled as the "Mountain Express" trail mix as a way to help promote and encourage people to support the project and to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11, Motion DB, Second: EO

Respectfully Submitted


Matt Riiska, Secretary