

## Meeting Minutes Rails to Trails Committee (R2T)

Place: Norfolk Town Hall

Date: July 13, 2023 (Thursday)

In Attendance: Erick Olsen, David Beers (Treasurer), Marie Isabelle, West Lowe, Bob Gilchrest (Chair), Michelle Childs (Vice Chair), Andra Moss

Guests: Richard Byrne, Gary Scheft, Trip Brizell, Katey Brizell, Rosemary Gill, Matt Klimkosky, & Becky Klimkosky

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Bob Gilchrest welcomed the guests/potential new committee members

Bob Gilchrest asked to vote to accept the meeting minutes from the 6/8/2023 meeting. Erick Olsen so moved/West Lowe seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

David Beers gave the Treasurer's report. The R2T Committee has a balance of \$37,833. This includes a \$2,000 donation recently received for a hand-made canoe that was donated to R2T to be sold as a fundraiser. West Lowe facilitated the donation.

It was moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed.

Discussion on the CT DEEP grant received: Bob Gilchrest noted that the group needs to follow-up on the paperwork for the CT DEEP grant. Also, the portion of the funding that Norfolk must be responsible for, and when, needs to be clarified, i.e. what portion of Norfolk's matching grant funds must be in place (and does this mean in the bank) before the contract can be signed.

Bob Gilchrest noted that the general terms (80% from the state and 20% match from Norfolk R2T) allow our match to include in-kind services.

David Beers said he would help follow-up with the state. Bob Gilchrest said he will follow through regarding design, etc. Until we receive paperwork from the state that there is not more that we can do now. Once the project begins, we should let the public know as we move forward in the newspaper, social media, etc. A ribbon cutting should be planned.

The group next discussed fundraising. The suggestion was made to do a mailing to request donations from town residents. David Beers suggested that the group needs a fundraising person and a social media person. Bob Gilchrest and Erick Olsen have currently been managing the R2T social media. It was noted that the links on the R2T Committee page on the town website need to be updated. Marie Isabelle volunteered to help with social media. Bob Gilchrest said he would share the admin information with her for R2T's social media pages.

The 2023 Tour de Forest is confirmed for Saturday, October 14. The date was voted on and passed. Bob Gilchrest said the map is ready. David Beers will set up the BikeReg.com registration page. Andra Moss will make the QR code for the flyer. Bob Gilchrest will make the flyer and additional maps at Staples.

David Beers noted that last year the event netted \$2,700 (after 25% share to Great Mountain Forest).

David Beers reported that the Limerock bicycle race, to be held on Columbus Day weekend, would like to cross-promote with our race. He will follow up on that.

One of the guest visitors said they would help make connections with their Albany biking group to help get the word out. Another suggested group to reach out to is the Mohawk cycling club.

The group discussed ending the race at the NorBrook Brewery, offering a coupon for a drink, and other ideas. It was decided to continue to end the race at the Curling Club, where beer and other beverages would be offered for sale.

The group decided to increase the registration fee for Tour de Forest to \$50 for adult riders and \$25 for teens. Kids under 12 years old would still be free. The motion to raise the entrance fees was made and passed.

Weekend in Norfolk (WIN) Aug. 4-6: Richard Byrne will offer a historic walking tour of the Stoney Lonesome Trail on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 10-11:30 a.m. It can be co-sponsored by Norfolk R2T and the Norfolk Land Trust. The R2T may have an info booth on Sunday afternoon 1-3pm on Robertson Plaza. Bob Gilchrest, Matt Riiska & Erick Olsen offered to man the booth.

6:45 p.m. David Beers moves to close the formal meeting. Meeting is closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andra Moss (Acting Secretary)