

Village Pathway Committee
Meeting Minutes
5/29/08-Approved 6/26/08

Members Present: Ginny Lovett, Pam Coburn, Ann Brienza, Gerry Brooks, Dave Sias

Staff Present: Angela LeBrecque

Guest: Diane Hanley, (WOW)

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

The Town Forest report was passed on to Pam Coburn.

Dave will attend the lakes region bike committee as a pathway committee rep.

There was discussion about access across Ambrose property. Ann offered to talk with Bob Ambrose about allowing the use for hikers and mountain bikers, not ATV's, and also between Boyton Rd and the new development in regard to the proposed fencing which will block to walking path to the schools and fields.

Diane Hanley was introduced by Ginny. She reported on WOW's fund raiser success. All of their 300 tickets were sold and they cleared \$25,000 that night. There were many volunteers. She reported that there is a regional group, "Friends of the Northern RR", that is working on the Andover, Danbury, Franklin route and it is already underway. This is an abandoned rail path and will be an unpaved trail composed of gravel and stone dust. The Laconia section is making a decision to pave with asphalt at the border of Laconia and Belmont. There are theoretical plans for Weirs > Meredith. Diane emphasized that the DOT will not give in about fencing (but it doesn't necessarily have to be a 5 ft. chain link; wrought iron and aluminum are an option, as long as no one can go through). The gates are a question, where there is access to the lakeside by abutters. Diane also mentioned that the Hobo and Scenic Railroad plans to stay active and there is also a freight line that owns "rights" to the rail way; DOT doesn't want to abandon this line. Dave Sias mentioned that the railway is active from Weirs to Lincoln. Diane said that DOT is asking for "overkill" on the fencing. Dave asked about "Rails to Trails". Ann asked about the property owners along the west side of Paugus Bay. Diane mentioned that there have been two planning board meetings and that the abutters have been notified and that they have been contacted twice. There is a group of Southdown Shores and Long Bay property owners that have been formed and have met with Warren Murphy. They are currently looking for an alternate route. Diane stated that Phase I and II are currently fully funded. Diane stated that the city of Laconia will be maintaining the route. There will be barriers in certain areas to snowmobiles in the winter. Ginny mentioned that it would be a good idea to communicate with Jim Lerner.(above portion of the minutes submitted by Ann Brienza).

- Diane Handley finished up by saying the fence requirement for WOW trails is difficult but without it, there could be a liability issue to formally designate a railway as a trail.
- Members of the committee set a date to clean up Swasey Park by removing trash and branches fallen on the trails.
- In Mark's absence, Ginny noted that Mark found the transportation committee's meeting very informative and he will continue to attend in an effort to provide coordination between them and the Pathway Committee. Mark will brief the committee on what he learned at the transportation comm. Meeting.
- Pam volunteered to take the write up of the May 2nd walk and fill out the inventory sheet for consistency down the road.

- Adjourned 5PM (bulleted portion submitted by Angela LeBrecque)