

Village Pathway Committee

Minutes of July 10, 2006

Attending: Ann Brienza, Tammy Levesque, Ginny Lovett, Peter Miller

Discussion touched on a number of themes and questions to be explored more thoroughly in future meetings.

Purposes/objectives of the Pathway: These can be as inclusive as the committee wishes. Recreation, historical interpretation, natural interpretation, and integration of commercial/scenic/cultural/civic elements of the village core were mentioned.

Recreational uses: Will part or all of the Pathway be a bike route? To be determined. Par course fitness stations along the Hawkins Brook section of the Pathway are an option.

Route: To be determined by the committee. The Plan NH Charette Report will help jumpstart discussion. Committee members who do not have this report should contact Jeanie Forrester or Wynette DeGroot (279-4538) to obtain copy. Some potential complexities regarding use of the rail corridor from the train station to L. Waukevan beach were noted. Committee should confer with Mike IZard of LRPC regarding this at some future time. Should the rail corridor from Laconia town line to train station be incorporated in the committee's work? To be determined. Need to consult with WOW rails-to-trails group in future.

Which section(s) of the Pathway to develop first: To be determined.

Pathway Identifying Features: Given that the Pathway most likely will incorporate a variety of surfaces (newly constructed paths through green space, boardwalk, sidewalk, rail corridor, etc), what visuals will be used to identify it throughout? To be determined.

Funding: One important mission of the committee will be to prepare a Transportation Enhancement Grant proposal by August 2007. Other grant initiatives may be pursued also.

Linkage with trails to be constructed in Feltham Town Forest: The Feltham Town Forest is a 175 acre natural preserve located between Jenness Hill Road, Philbrook Avenue, and Bonny Shores/Sawmill Shores Roads. The Conservation Commission plans to create trails in the preserve, with access on lower Philbrook Ave near the Community Center. Should the Pathway connect with these proposed trails? To be determined.

Connection between Pathway and Community Center: The importance of building the Hawkins Brook bridge and associated paths was emphasized. (Note: Meredith selectmen endorsed the construction of the bridge at their July 10th meeting, with work to begin this fall.)

Advocacy: Tammy L. asked if the committee would need to advocate for the Pathway as the Community Center Search Committee did for the Community Center. Peter M. responded that public acceptance most likely would hinge on the percentage of costs to be paid by outside funds (grants, donations, etc). It is unclear at this time what portion of costs, if any, would be paid by the Town.

User groups: Tammy L. also inquired about which groups could use the Pathway. Being entirely outdoors, the Pathway would be available to all user groups and the public at large.

Handicap Accessibility: To be determined.

Maintenance: Who will maintain the Pathway after construction? To be discussed with the Town.

Future meeting times: Occasional Mondays, 12:30 – 1:30, planning sessions to last until 2:00.

Next agenda: Brainstorm the Pathway's purposes, uses, routes, etc. This 90 minute critical planning session should be attended by all committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, acting secretary

Village Pathway Committee

Next Meeting: Monday, July 31st, 12:30 – 2:00, Town Hall Annex

Agenda:

Acceptance of July 10th minutes

Election of chair and secretary

Brainstorming Pathway's purposes, uses, route, etc.