

Village Pathways Committee
January 13, 2011
2:30pm Town Hall Annex

Attending: Liz Lapham (Chairperson), Pam Coburn, Angela LaBrecque, Carol Gerken, Chris Schwidder and Janis Roberts.

Meeting called to order at 2:30 pm by Liz Lapham. Liz introduced Janis Roberts, member of the Meredith Historical Society and a native Meredith resident, who is interested in joining the Committee.

Old Business:

1. Liz provided the committee a review of her meeting with Phil Warren, Town Manager. The results of their discussion was included in Liz's report to the committee on 12/14/10 and is included below:

12/8/10- Meeting with Phil Warren, Town Manager
Liz Lapham, Chairman Village Pathways Committee

Discussed the WOW/Trailways study group as part of the charge and its inclusion as part of the Village Pathways Committee. Discussion centered on trying to balance everything and if we were taking on too much on the Pathways Committee and compromising our energies for working in other areas. Phil does not think that Trailways/WOW is part of the charge but rather an extension of the charge. He suggested directions we could take.

1. Split into 2 committees: Pathways and WOW/Trailways. Make another group entirely, Pathways continue to study interconnections in town; WOW/Trailways explore future connection with state trail.
2. WOW/Trailways group can form a non-profit as in other towns; the municipality can assist.

Other topics discussed:

1. Bike paths. Phil agreed important to include potential bike paths with any interconnections we recommend. I learned that if using federal funds, such as will be used on the 3/25 corridor, that bike paths are required.
2. There will be Main St. reconstruction in the future and we could tie recommendations for bike paths to that.
3. Phil very receptive to including and publishing the historical walking trail into our Village Pathway Map. When presented with cost, Phil found out we have \$2,185.00 budgeted for us.
4. Swasey Park suggested parking lot. Phil: There are no funds; would have to take land from abutters or the park; Conservation Commission must be involved; no

funds for sign showing where to launch kayak/canoes. Stated that the selectmen have said there will be no new programs or services during these tough economic times.

5. Phil gave me a good suggestion that we should avoid calling anything a “study group” or a “sub-committee” but rather that as chairman I should assign tasks and that would be reflected in the minutes, for example, as: Carol and Tammy will work on SRTS.

2. On December 20, 2010 Liz met with the Meredith Board of Selectmen. Below is the report she sent to the Pathways Committee of their meeting. Angela also expanded on Liz’s report by saying that Phil emphasized that the requirement of lawyers, engineers, fundraising and other complexities were too far beyond the scope of the Pathway’s Committee.

12/20/10 Meeting with Meredith Board of Selectmen
Liz Lapham, Chairman Village Pathways Committee

Last reported to the selectmen on Nov. 16, 2009 and came to give a update and get advice.

Past achievements:

- Publication of Village Pathways map and text
- Held Meredith Walks! Event June 5, 2010. Participants received free t-shirts, cost underwritten by HEAL.
- Maps were continuously requested by Chamber of Commerce, Park& Rec., Inns and Campgrounds. Made several printings and distributions.

Present plans:

- Move in direction of exploring pedestrian and bicycle paths in different population areas of Meredith. Now that we have the “hub” with the village map, would like to add the “spokes” connecting facilities and places of interest like Leavitt Beach, Page Pond, Community Center, etc.
- Revise and reissue Historic Walking Tour Map and tie it into Pathways Map.
- Safe Routes to School. Carol Gerken researched for past year and was asked to chair a study group. From that group organized a meeting on Dec.9, 2010 of “stakeholders”, representatives from town organizations and officials. John Corrigan, DOT coordinator of SRTS gave presentation. Consensus positive might work for the community and fits into Pathways Committee plan to interconnect facilities. Selectmen were in agreement on this.
- WOW/Trailways Group headed by Ginny Lovett and Tammy LeVesque. Have held 3 meetings and it is apparent this is a controversial issue. Pathways Committee agreed I should seek Phil Warren’s advice and I met with him on Dec. 12th to discuss. **At this point, Phil Warren spoke and his opinion is that WOW/Trailways is not part of the charge and that forming a separate non-profit committee is the way to go, as has been done in other towns. After discussion, Selectmen Brothers, Worsman, Torr and Palm were in agreement that it falls

outside the charge of the Village Pathways Committee. There was a realization that the Pathways Committee would be spread too thin to handle this and other directions that do come under the charge. Miller Lovett suggested that when a separate committee is formed that a member of the Pathways Committee attend as a representative for information.

Future events:

- Announced to Board of Selectmen that we planned another Meredith Walks! Event on May 21, 2011. I presented them each with a t-shirt and invitation to attend. The Selectmen praised the committee for its work.

Tammy Levesque, Pathway's Committee, is interested in the WOW/Trailways and may be interested in heading it up. She will be contacting Diane Hanley to discuss what the Parks and Rec. committee did and also Allen Beetle. Chris Schwidder was discussed as a possible liaison if a new private non-profit group is organized.

3. Safe Routes to School

Carol Gerken reported that there were no new developments with Safe Routes to School and expressed her appreciation and delight for the attendees and "stakeholders" of the special meeting presented by John Corrigan. Carol will be talking with John Corrigan, DOT coordinator to the Safe Routes to School, to verify that the State actually does have funds available before we proceed further. Carol will also be in contact with the Newfound School District SRTS coordinator who has agreed to help us in our process.

Pam stated she was impressed with the meeting and the willingness of the "stakeholders" to move forward. It was suggested that we develop a public outreach program to make the community aware of the objectives and goals of the SRTS task group, even possibly have a "Walk to School Day" to kick off the program.

Angela gave a brief summary of the Web-Presentation in December on "America Walks" to educate people on the "Engineering" aspects. The 10 points made were:

1. Sidewalks-different types of surface treatments
2. Vehicle Speed-reducing
3. Traffic signs-temporary and stationary
4. Crosswalks-emphasizing very visual signs and marking
5. Bike facilities-lanes and racks
6. Crossing Guards-best to be a school employee
7. Speed deterrents
8. Crossing islands
9. Street lights
10. Traffic lights

4." Loose Ends"

Liz reviewed her discussion with Vint Choinere, Parks and Rec. regarding the "loose ends" the came about as the email from Pam Coburn on the wish list for Swasey Park. The results of the discussion with Vint was provided by Liz to the committee and included:

I called Vint Choinere at Park and Rec. who is in charge of Swasey Park and recently chain sawed a tree that had fallen on a trail so he was up to date, had these responses.

Our wish list for Swasey Park was a long one:

1. Clearing at the end of High Street made into an official parking lot (could fit 5-6 cars and accommodate vehicles dropping off kayaks)

Actually, this first response is from the Town Manager, Phil Warren, who at my meeting with him on 12/8/10 when I brought this up said that there were no funds for a parking lot and stated that the selectmen have said there will be no new programs or services during this tough economic times.

2. Trail map at this parking lot with history of park, clear indication of color coded routes through park and how these connect to Waukewan Street, picnic areas and kayak launch,

3. Sign (hand pointing) from Main Street down High Street to Swasey Park,

This is something we might be able to work on together.

4. Sign at town right of way between houses indicating access to park's kayak launch area,

Vint is going to check on the history of this but remembers that BOS (not the current board but when C. Granfield was town manager) decided not to promote foot traffic along abutter's house

5. Signs (3) leading easily from Waukewan Street to pedestrian entrance off *street name* (and back again?)

6. Trail map with destinations inside this pedestrian entrance

Vint felt this would be a good idea.,

7. 2 or 3 more picnic tables and/or benches at various locations inside the park,

There have been mixed results with this, with damage being done to the tables. However, I did not get the sense that Vint was against trying this again.

8. 4-6 rubbish bins to go at picnic areas, at the launch and entrances.

The BOS policy holds in this park as in the others, like Highlands...what you bring in, bring out..."take only pictures...leave only footprints" philosophy

9. At least 2 dog poop bag stations to locate at parking lot and pedestrian entrance.

There is a dog poop bag installed at the entrance now and Vint felt that was enough, given the short trails of the park.

10. Other signage about milfoil, littering, etc.

Vint was positive about supporting this.

Vint did tell me that when cutting the tree, he spoke again to the neighbor at the far edge of the park and that he is very positive and welcoming to people. I found Vint to be very open and positive to these points and if we want to give him

suggestions he would be open to working on them. Swasey Park is under the responsibility of Park and Rec.

As a follow up to #5 I emailed Angela and asked her:

From: Liz Lapham [mailto:lizlapham@metrocast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 12:13 PM
To: Angela LaBrecque
Subject: Swasey

Hi Angela,

Did we ever discover if there is a right of way past those houses from Clough St. at the other end of Swasey into the park?

Her response:

I just called the DPW and the far end of Swasey Park exits into a private way. The homeowners in that area are the owners of the road.

Here is my email to Dan Heyduck and his response to this other loose end.

From: [Liz Lapham](#)
To: [D Heyduk](#)
Cc: [PamCoburn](#)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 2:04 PM
Subject: Community Forest

Dear Dan,

Writing to you to find out some info on the Community Forest. A member of the Pathways Committee, has emailed me with some "loose ends" that she feels our committee should be addressing. Among them were the following about the Community Forest:

The Community Forest may have improved signage now that it has a name, and a different authority runs the interior of this acreage, but in line with our wish list for Swasey Park, we wanted good signage in the town leading to the park's entrances.

11. A hand pointing sign showing the way from Plymouth Street down Philbrook to the pedestrian entrance.
12. When I last checked a while ago, the entrance into the park from Philbrook also needed a sign,
13. Sign at Rt 3 & Jennings Hill to parking entrance for Community Forest,
14. Sign at entrance to parking area off Jennings Hill Road.

And his response:

Regarding the signs, funny you should ask! All these things are on the Commission's to-do list, and will probably all happen in the spring.

We are planning an addition to the Philbrook Ave street sign to indicate that the forest entrance is up that way. There will be a forest name sign at the Philbrook Ave trail entrance. We are also planning a street sign addition at Route 3/Jenness Hill Road, a forest name sign at the Jenness Hill entrance to the parking, and a kiosk at that trail entrance. In addition, we are planning directional signs for strategic trail intersections.

Thanks to Pathways for flagging this as important! I think it makes sense for us to keep in touch. In that vein, I would suggest trying to standardize the town's park/forest signage in the yellow-on-brown format already in use.

Best,

Dan

As a result of our discussion, it was decided that Liz will write a letter to Vint requesting action on the following items:

1. Kayak launching sign
2. Signage at Main and High Street indicating direction to Swasey Park and sign on littering.
3. Permanent Trail Map
4. More publication of park

Janis will check into with the Historical Society as to how the trails were named. Also it was discussed the necessity that we have uniform signage for all areas of the town. Carol stated that she believes that the Conservation Dept. makes their signs.

5. Liz submitted to the Town the Pathways report for their annual report.

New Business

1 After discussion, the Pathways meeting will be held at 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be on February 10, 2011 at 2:30pm at the Town Annex.

2. The major emphasis of the committee over the next few months will be redoing the Historical Walking Map of Meredith that was originally made in the early 1990's. Janis will talk with the original map designer to see if he still has the original text and pictures available and also Ann Sprague to see if she might be able to supply any information.

The objective for the next meeting will be to read and edit the original Meredith Village Historic Walking Tour guide booklet and to develop suggestions for change. It will be the committee's goal to have the Historical Walking Map completed by the Meredith Walk on 5/21/2011.

3. Safe Routes to School-discussed under Old Business

4. The Selectmen have asked the committee to investigate "Mapping new pathways/Bike paths in Meredith". After discussion, the committee decided to table this topic for a later date and to focus our attention on Safe Routes to School and the Historical Map.

5. Meredith Walks is scheduled for 5/21/11. Discussion ensued regarding publicity for the walk. We will have notification on the GMP sign and also the electronic sign at the bank.

In the future, all draft minutes will first be sent to the Chairperson for review and then to committee for review and approval at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Schwidder