

## TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING, 7/25/17

Present: George McNaughton, Bettina McGrady (presiding), Hallie Whitcomb, Randy Gray, Chuck Gregory.

The meeting began at 7:00.

Bettina McGrady asked for motion to commence the meeting: Moved (McNaughton/Whitcomb). The meeting began by consensus.

All present introduced themselves.

George McNaughton explained the committee was sized for five because one of the six who applied bowed out.

Officers were elected: Nominated (McGrady/Gray) for president: George McNaughton He accepted post under the condition that he would serve only for a year. He was elected.

Nominated (McGrady/McNaughton) for Vice-Chair: Randy Gray. He was elected.

Nominated (Whitcomb/Gray) for Secretary: Chuck Gregory He was elected.

Discussion of scope of work: George McNaughton presented the provisional scope of work that he had submitted to the select board. He directed the members to revise it for clarification for the select board. Hallie Whitcomb asked for each member to describe their approach to the group's work. Her approach is to consider the need to approach any civic endeavor holistically — the balance between human activity and the environment in which it operates. Practical examples: recreational activity and improvement of pollinator habitat

Randy Gray said his emphasis on connecting the existing trail to the North Springfield Dam and using North Springfield's other resources.

Bettina McGrady said she was originally connected with the development of the Toonerville walking and recreational trail and is interested in the well-being of the community. Looking to see the road and trail system improved.

George McNaughton said he hoped to use the trail as a way of developing the town economically. Use the trail as a way to attract the middle class back. He recounted his spadework in researching resources for the trails project.

Chuck Gregory said he hoped to see a trail with offshoots to local commercial enterprises and that his main goal is to attract pioneers who want to make Springfield the best town in the nation in education, health care and taxes.

Areas of activities the committee considered (Adopted by consensus unless noted otherwise):

1. Gathering maps and studies: sources to check: town, state departments (e.g., ANR, DOT, VDH). Need to create an archive as resource to apply for grants. Approved
2. Advertising on the Internet, etc., to attract commerce— Bettina McGrady suggested a check with Chamber of Commerce since this might duplicate what they already do. George McNaughton asked if there is a need to know what is here and what is not. Bettina McGrady said a partnership with state is needed. A decision on the matter was deferred.
3. Trail promotion was approved
4. Reviewing access to Spinal trail: It was amended to include the development of nature trails on the ridges in the town with connections to the main trail. It was approved as modified.
5. Scouting system to locate grants for development purposes. Approved.
6. Integrate the development of Muckcross (the former Edgar May property) with Springfield's redevelopment. Adopted.
7. Develop a checklist of activities beneficial to the economic and cultural development of the town. Approved
8. Meet with local real estate agents. Approved
9. Determine which roads could be designated as scenic or byways: It was modified to include historic byways. Approved as modified.
10. Review zoning regulations and by-laws for needed adjustments. Approved.
11. Identify locations suitable for recreational trail expansion, e.g., snowmobiling, mountain biking. Approved
12. Identify potential locations for town access to bodies of water. Approved
13. Added at the suggestion of Selectman Walter Martone: Review organization and funding for trail maintenance and invasive species management, and patrolling to make sure improper or illegal use of trails is curbed.
14. Added at the suggestion of Kelly Stettner: Nature education and species awareness along trails

Bettina McGrady emphasized the need for manpower to achieve goals and objectives establish and pursue timelines and activities.

Assignments:

1. Gather maps and studies: Basically the creation of a digital library. Chuck Gregory volunteered to explore it and report at the next meeting. Bettina McGrady and George McNaughton will provide the materials they have.
2. Reach out to various agencies. Approach all with the question, “How can we make this work for your group?” The members volunteered severally to contact:
  1. Garden club: Bettina McGrady
  2. STAG— Bettina McGrady
  3. Neighborhood associations— Park/Union, North Springfield School, Freedom Park Coalition: George McNaughton
  4. Springfield on the Move—Hallie Whitcomb
  5. Muckross State Park— Randy Gray.
  6. Edgar May Center— Hallie Whitcomb.
3. Grant watchdogs— all
4. Town Plan review: let the group know what regulations are on tap that the group ought to know about— Chuck Gregory
5. Viewshed investigation— e.g., river beautification, solar and wind power development— Hallie Whitcomb.
6. Islands—what we can and can’t do— Hallie Whitcomb
7. Connection to the Spinal Trail— all
8. Byway promotion— all
9. Rural economy— George McNaughton
10. Video and photography production: Chuck Gregory.
11. Other— no other area of endeavor was suggested.

Participation in Model Climate Economy Program grant application: There is a grant application to be addressed by the town. Bettina McGrady will receive information about it from George McNaughton and respond at the next meeting about its relationship to our approach to encourage walking.

Priorities and reporting: To be discussed next month. Everybody will bring their top five priorities as gleaned from the revised Scope of Work.

Agenda items for next month:

Report on each person’s assignments

Discussion of priorities

Next meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of August, August 22, 7:00 PM at the Town Offices.

It was moved to adjourn (Whitcomb/McGrady). Passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Gregory, secretary

Attached: The revised "Scope of Work" of the Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

**Revised 7/25/17**

### Scope of Work

The Committee as a whole reviewed and revised the initial Scope of Work of the Committee at its organizational meeting as follows:

1. After organizing itself, the Committee would proceed to gather together all, or as many of the various studies of pedestrian, bicycle or other pathways or sidewalks which have been made, but not yet constructed. Approved.
2. The Committee would examine the advertising on the net and elsewhere of advertising and promotions occurring in the area which deal with trails or byways that either include Springfield, or pass extremely close to Springfield and determine what "destinations" are being promoted within the area, and the potential for destinations within Springfield to be included. It was decided this would be deferred since Chamber and Springfield on the Move should be working on this.
3. If a trail promotion, for example a Vermont cheese or wine trail does not include Springfield, determine what would need to happen to get a Springfield destination included. Approved, however, should be done in partnership with various organizations.
4. Emanating out from the spinal trail system that runs north/south through Springfield, determine where there are voids in the access such as a gap in the trail or a lack of sidewalks, and then analyze how the gap could be remedied. This is expanded to include review of potential major trail developments outside of the spinal trail on the ridges and their potential for a trail system beyond that of the spinal trail connections, and also identify potential undeveloped walkways. Approved as modified.
5. Review maps of the non-developed portion of town to identify residential clusters and how such clusters could be, or are connected to the Town by pedestrian or bicycle trails

or paths. Approved.

6. Develop a scouting system to locate grants pertaining to trails, greenways, byways, and rural enterprises which could serve as Springfield destinations, and a grant team trained to react quickly to grant opportunities. Approved.
7. Work on developing potential projects which would enhance the local economic, educational or cultural impact of the Muckcross State Park and the Black River on the Town of Springfield. Approved.
8. Develop a checklist of rural economic, educational or cultural facilities or enterprises which would enhance the middle-class appeal, increase the Grand List, tie in with themes or developments in the developed portion of town or otherwise improve the aesthetics and quality of life in the Springfield community. Approved.
9. Meet with the local real estate agents as a group to determine ways that rural areas of Springfield could be enhanced in order to increase real estate values and the marketability of the community. Approved.
10. Determine whether any of the country roads located in Springfield are eligible to be designated as scenic and historic by-ways, and if not to determine what would need to be accomplished to make them so. Approved as revised.
11. Review zoning regulations and by-laws to determine whether adjustments should be recommended to the Planning Commission in order to enhance the value of the rural areas, preserve their beauty or historic nature, or to accommodate trails, greenways, byways, or economic endeavors consistent with rural nature of the area. Approved.

As revised 7/25/17

Scope of Work Page 1 of 2

12. Identify locations for specialized trails appropriate for mountain biking, snowmobiling, or equestrian activities, and destinations servicing those who are engaged in such activities.  
Approved.
  
13. Identify potential locations for kayak, canoe or similar access to waterways in Springfield. Approved
  
14. Work on how to organize and fund trail maintenance, curb invasive species, and develop monitoring to avoid or reduce trail abuse or illegal activities.
  
15. Develop nature education including species identification and workshops associated with trails, greenways, byways and rural economy.

As revised 7/25/17

Scope of Work Page 2 of 2