

Springfield Trails, Greenways, Byways and Rural Economy Committee
Meeting
January 22, 2019

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by vice-chair Chuck Gregory.

Roll Call— Bettina McCrady, George McNaughton, Josie Hingston, Chuck Gregory (presiding), Christian Craig (by invitation), and Lizzie Craig (by invitation). Absent: Randy Gray.

Minutes— Moved to adopt as submitted (McNaughton/Hingston). Passed unanimously.

Maps/GPS discussion—Randy Gray— deferred due to an unavoidable absence.

Black River/Hoyt's Landing access trail—Randy Gray— deferred.

Solicitation of volunteer groups for trail maintenance—Randy Gray—deferred.

Hartness House trail mapping contact— Josie Hingston reported Hartness House staff have been doing some work. There are two stone bridges, however, which require above-average attention. One of washes away frequently. The steps and condition of the second are in need of rather extensive work. The bridges are portably not budgeted for repair. Bettina suggested that maybe volunteer groups could expedite the repairs. Bettina mentioned the boy scouts did repairs some years ago. **Christian offered to discuss it with Rotary and Lions Club for a joint and jointly funded project at their next meeting.** Josie is going to try to do a drone aerial survey and draw up a map. The drone survey will probably happen within the next couple of months while the visibility of the ground is very good. **Chuck will check with Randy and do what is necessary to get a report on the other volunteer groups in town.**

Status of Grant to extend the Toonerville Trail—Bettina said the town manager wanted to start with the J&L site work first and deal with the rest of the extension later. The town has to work with ANR before they can start the work and the town's grant is good until 2021; George said the town ought to handle that separately from the extension of the trail north of Riverside school.

Discussion of extension of main trail from the Fellows site along the Black Rivee—Christian and Lizzie Craig said the scoping study from Riverside to Springweather involved there possible trails: a bike/walking lane along River Street to the dam; a paved biking/walking path along the river on the Riverside School bank to the recycling center, thence to the road to North Main and School Street to the dam; and one alongside a widened Fairground road. Difficulties with the River Street route included some rights of way and all the driveways. Discussion of the riverbank route indicated a consensus of the committee preferred it. Christian and Lizzie reported that in the initial work on the project they met with all the property owners, a handful of whom were hostile to the notion of granting rights of way for the path and that there is a list of the original attendees in the report. It was suggested that the present property owners be reconvened (with Select Board members present, unlike the previous meeting). It was determined to ask the town if there is a lingering easement between Riverside school and the recycling center along the river. the impediments were: Money (estimated at around \$2 million and lack of easement) and ... **Move to request the town to determine if there is lingering**

legal easement of the former Rte 11 along the Black River. (McNaughton/McCrady) Passed unanimously. Lizzie Craig of the public asked if we had been in contact with Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto of SVRPC.

Discussion of Zoning By-law changes— George McNaughton presented his proposed revisions to article 7-Definitions of the town zoning by-laws and asked for input from the members. He described his recent work with customers in this realm. He said he has some issues with lumping forest products and agriculture together, and that he feels they should be separated. Bettina said it would be worth ensuring that barns can be permitted for other than agricultural uses. **George McNaughton will research the Woodstock zoning by-laws to formulate a proposed revision to town by-laws.** Bettina pointed out the problems associated with 3(c) “Objectionable noise” as pertaining to weddings and other recreational events. George pointed out a noise ordinance based on decibel level might address that. Bettina suggested taking it out. George suggested that including “owner/operator” might satisfy needs. Josie pointed out the term is included in a preceding clause. Bettina mentioned off-street parking in 3(h). **George will double-check it with the “pick your own” agricultural regulation** to ensure it does not unduly affect neighborhood parking access.

George explained the significance of the “value added” term— expanding the regulations to allow materials coming from other farms. Josie mentioned that kampucha production might need special mention in the by-laws.

Tabling of Mineral Street pocket park until 2/26—Chuck Gregory said he would bring discussion of Mineral Street’s pocket park to the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23

Respectfully submitted,

chuck gregory, secretary