

SPRINGFIELD GREENWAYS, TRAILWAYS, BYWAYS AND RURAL ECONOMY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

UNAUTHORIZED MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM. Present were Randy Gray (presiding), Chuck Gregory, Jim Fogg and Josie Hingston. Present as public was Kristi Morris

Old Business:

1. Approval of minutes from the May meeting. Moved and seconded to prove them as written (Hingston/Gregory). Passed.
2. Discussion of Hartness House trails— Josie reported talks with the Hartness House are stalled because of management changes. When things have stabilized, she will re-approach them.
3. Followup with Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Director and Public Works Director about trail maintenance.

Chuck Gregory reported:

Summary of P&R and DPW info:

Parks & Rec:

No schedule for maintenance at P&R— Andy generally gets work crews to handle seasonal cleanups and takes students who are in a hurry to get in their 40 hours of community service to do such things as trash or litter cleanup.

P&R might get complaints referred by the town office.

Basically does the greenery. Anything involving power tools becomes a DPW task. Does not do pavement maintenance.

Work crew sources: Prison for monthly mowing; Garden Club for flowers. Riverside, high school and Technical Center for cleanup crews. Eagle Scouts for construction projects (litter posts, signboards, bridges, pergolas and such like).

Budget has a \$1,000 item for trail maintenance.

DPW:

DPW mows the trail once every fall; other than that, it does nothing and has no budget for it. It would create a list of pavement conditions reported by other people and provide cost estimates for repairs, but would expect that Parks & Rec would provide those reports. Any sort of maintenance it performed would have to be done with additional funding. Chip seal should never be used as a repair, and it should be struck from the draft maintenance manual.

Josie Hingston said that there are grants available for such things as trail maintenance would need.

Jim Fogg said there is money left over from the trail's original construction and that he believes Bettina McCrady knows details. Josie mentioned that she has discovered a near-hazardous presence of poison ivy at one popular spot on the trail. She reported there is an internet app, "SnapCrapp," which users could use to report problems to the Department of Public Works for proper disposal— in this case, referral to Parks and Recreation, which she said she will do. Jim Fogg led discussion about the appropriate remedy for eradicating the problem: Chemicals, flamethrower, hand-pulling. **Josie Hingston will forward the report of the problem to Jeff Strong. Chuck Gregory will advise Mr. Strong of the reporting procedure which the committee feels would formalize the maintenance relationship between DPW and Parks & Recreation.**

Randy Gray asked attendee Kristi Morris about the processing of private donations for the trails system. Kristi said that setting up a separate account would be preferable. Jim Hogg said it is not difficult to set up a non-profit.

4. Options for vector control— Randy Gray opined that a sufficient number of collection points for dog poop would be every one-third to one-half of a mile : There are no containers at this time, but there are scooping bags on the North Springfield Dam trail and a couple of trash barrels at opposite ends of the major portion of the Toonerville Trail. Composter containment was discussed.
5. Presentation to Planning Commission's August meeting— The Zoning Administrator has given Randy Gray documents relating to the presentation of the committee's proposed re-write of parts of Article 7 of the town regulations and by-laws. **It will be discussed at the committee's July meeting.**
6. Request for permission for Randy Gray to discuss with Bob Flint the extension of the Toonerville Trail behind the old J&L building. Randy reported that Bob Flint said work on the site will probably not start until next spring. Kristi Morris said the proposals for the work will probably go out this fall. There was general discussion of the route of the path after it reached South Main Street. Kristi Morris said if a stop light was re-installed there it would be at the town expense.
7. Assigning private landowner permission strategy to discuss the strategy for existing trails' continued existence. Randy reviewed the trails in the existing Trail Guide. Jim Fogg mentioned a couple of trails not listed in it, and he asked about one that was cut off by the Interstate— off Randall Hill, along Gravel Brook and the YMCA Meeting Waters camp, which has been substantially eroded by off-road vehicle use. **Randy will provide a list of landowners at the next meeting.** Jim Hogg related attendance at the last meeting of those landowners. Josie said there seems not to be a list available. Jim suggested a network of trails completely bypassing the river and rejoining in North Springfield to continue to the Springweather Recreation Area and the Ludlow bike trail, and he painted a picture of what it might look like. Randy mentioned that West Weathersfield is connected to Springweather. Kristi Morris mentioned the efforts of Proctorsville and Cavendish to establish a bike trail. Randy said there seem to be only 3 to 4 landowners along the Black River Fairground Road route. **Randy will assign reach out work to each member prior to the next meeting.**

8. Mineral Street pocket park— Chuck Gregory reported no word yet from the new president of the Garden Club as to what the members might recommend for flora. **Chuck Gregory will re-contact Ms. Pierce. Randy Gray will verify the ownership of the land behind the State Office Building.**
9. Randy mentioned that Bill Fogg is now a member of the committee.
10. Facebook and letter to the editor outreach: Randy and Josie reported that Jim Fogg is now a member.
11. Next month's agenda:

Review of material for reporting to the Town Planning Commission on revisions to Article 7.

Report on establishing the protocol between the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation for being notified of maintenance issues.

Success of the provision of landowner contact information

Connect with Rachel Hunter August 3d about keeping informed about the region-wide trail creation efforts.

Report on Garden Club response.

Bettina's report on her conversation with Tom Kennedy of South Windsor County Regional Planning Commission

Discussion of the statistics reported in the Traffic Master Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31.

The next meeting will be July 23, at 7:00 PM at the town offices.

Respectfully submitted,

chuck gregory, secretary