

**Approved minutes**  
**Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee Meeting**  
May 26th, 2022  
5:30 PM

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:36.

**Roll Call—** Present were Jim Fog (presiding), John Bond, Barbara Schultz, Kristi Morris (ex officio), Josie Hingston, Chuck Gregory and (by invitation), Chris Merrill.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes— minutes were approved unanimously with the corrections that Bettina McCrady will handle the promotion and Jim Fog will handle the trail markings

**Announcements—** Jim Fog said that trail markings can begin after June 11th when baseball season is over. He said we had participated in the annual Town Cleanup Day.

**Old Business**

—I-91 repair plan— Kristi reported there was no further input from Department of Transportation. Chris Merrill said it seems they're going to favor a crosswalk at the exit ramp and eliminate the Young's Road portion of the Toonerville Trail. Jim expressed the hope that with the degradation of that portion of the trail, the DoT would provide some other town trail improvement elsewhere. Jim suggested we have the Town Manager contact the VOREC grantors about the possible loss of that half-mile of the trail to apprise them of possible changes to the conditions under which the funding was granted.

—Race planning— Jim reported that there is no timer service yet secured. He will ask the cross-country coach. He will secure the special use permit for using Muckcross.

--Bench installation and landscaping. Bettina McCrady submitted a written report in absentia : "Toonerville Trail Planting Update: Woodbury's has visited the site, plant materials have been confirmed and Chris connected with Bette Matulonis last week regarding the size and depth of the planting bed along with materials required to give the shrubs an healthy start. Chris will coordinate with Public Works a date to get started, Woodbury's will plant and we/I will coordinate with Chris the purchase of mulch to top dress the planting bed. Barbara received a nice donation from the Audubon Society of one birch tree and the Society will pay Woodbury's directly. Planting of the tree TBD (Woodbury's will do that too and it will cost a bit more than the original quote).

"Regarding the historical markers along the Trail and the materials required, could someone get me an estimated amount of lumber/materials for five trail signs? Barbara suggested we consider the trail sign in the attached PDF and we all agreed on using this style at our last meeting and Jim's father offered to make them. Once I have the required materials, I will order at Bibens and ask for the \$500 in-kind donation to credit against the amount owed. I will work with Springfield Printing on the historic maps for each of the five trail signs (same as the brochure, using text/photo #'s 1-5.

“Lastly, John Harmer was unable to get his students to Hartness Park this spring and Chris [Merrill] and I will coordinate a date for the Horticultural class to do some limb trimming in the fall. In the meanwhile, Chris will be working on getting new trail blazes in HH Park.”

Chris Merrill reported all three benches are installed and the topsoil and compost will soon be in place.

Barbara Schultz suggested there be a public relations effort, perhaps a photo opportunity and announcement. Jim said he will contact the editor of the paper to arrange it.

Chris Merrill reported that John Harmer’s class was unable to undertake it, but that John Bond had given him stencils for marking the trails. He and Jim’s father will co-ordinate the milling of the lumber.

Jim Fog suggested that the type of sign used on the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail (with router-engraved lettering) should be considered due to their durability. The locations for the signs in Hartness Park have been established. Jim asked for a cost estimate for the materials. Springfield Printing has developed the weatherproof placards to be installed on the Toonerville Trail signposts. Jim suggested that he, Chris Merrill and John Harmer could do minor brush clearing at the ski jump and overview sites in Hartness Park to improve the view.

Jim mentioned that there is a derelict building by the park’s exit across from East School. The previous service of the building is unknown. He believes it is either on park property or in a “no man’s land.” On Green-up Day, he observed that it has become a depository for rubbish. He asked if anyone had any comments about replacing or demolishing it. John Bond suggested a controlled burn exercise for the Fire Department. Kristi Morris mentioned there had been a fire in that area a few years ago. Jim suggested replacing it with a pavilion. He and Chris will check the GPS position of the structure to determine jurisdiction.

### **New Business**

--Hartness Park workday— Jim suggested we organize it by e-mail after Chris Merrill’s schedule frees up in late June.

--Dam Run/Edgar May donation to ST&RE— Jim announced the Audubon Society had donated a birch tree for a bench planting for the Toonerville Trail and that the Edgar May Center had donated \$1,000 to this committee. He suggested thank-you letters be sent to Audubon and the Edgar May Center. Chuck Gregory volunteered to draft the letter for his signature.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 23rd, 5:30 PM at the Town Offices meeting hall. Moved to adjourn (Schultz/Hingston). Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
chuck gregory, secretary.