

Springfield Trails and Recreation Committee
July 25, 2024
Town Manager's Office
5:30 PM

Call to Order— The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by vice-chair Barbara Schultz

Roll Call— Present were Barbara Schultz (presiding), John Bond, Susan White and Chuck Gregory. For the public, Jim Kraft.

Announcements— There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting— The minutes were approved with the correction that the website had been updated and the inclusion of the draft of the message to the Ordinance Committee. Moved to approve (Bond/Gregory). Passed unanimously.

Old Business

—Meeting Waters Municipal Forest— Barbara reported meeting with the Director of the YMCA. The YMCA's wish is that there be no connection of trails between the Forest and the YMCA property. The tax map boundaries were noted by the YMCA as being correct. Barbara suggested the committee's next step would be to build from the present roughed-in trail, A later step might be to initiate a long-term planning process , which work has been assigned in the Town Plan to the Conservation Committee. Chuck Gregory is a member of the Conservation Committee and will act as liaison.

—Input Request by VOREC— Sue and Barbara have provided feedback, via questionnaire, on the draft priorities for the state's five-year recreation plan. There was no information about a new Request for Proposal.

—Hartness Park Rehabilitation Grant—

—Hartness Park Rehabilitation Grant— The VYCC has contacted Adam Middleton and told him they may only do the carpentry work (including the stairs), but are uncertain at this time about being able to do the water channeling work. Sue White mentioned that some connector signs indicating the way between Muckcross and Hartness Park seem to be missing. John Bond said he could make trail signs.

New Business

—**Rules for the park**— John Bond reported the Ordinance Committee has voted to prohibit discharge of firearms in Hartness Park, but to allow bow hunting. The vote was based on the need to post no-hunting signs at very close intervals and update them annually. The Ordinance Committee indicated a willingness to consider other rules submitted by the ST&RE committee. John Bond suggested no overnight camping, no campfires, no motor vehicles, clean up after dogs, “carry out what you carry in,” etc. John will check with Brian Benoit about the existence of any other rules. The survey of the gate’s location determined it is entirely on town property. John suggested we can now move on the issue of opening and closing the Skitchewaug Trail gate by discussing it with the police chief and the head of the Public Works Department so the public can use the newly-developed parking spaces next to the water tower. Barbara suggested that the issues of rules and gate operation be dealt with simultaneously. John Bond volunteered to draft the proposal.

—**Trees down in Hartness Park**— John Bond reported the recent storm felled trees on the trail near Summer Street in the park. He volunteered to help Parks and Recreation remove them.

—**Survey**— John Bond the bill for the gate location survey has been submitted and the matter is concluded.

—**2023-24 Annual report**— Chuck Gregory told all to submit their revisions to him before the next meeting so that it can be approved before the October 12th deadline.

The agenda for the next meeting will be:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28. (Bond/White). Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted,

chuck gregory
secretary