

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**  
SPRINGFIELD TRAILS AND RURAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH,  
5:30 PM  
TOWN OFFICES MEETING ROOM

**Call to Order**—The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Fog at 5:30.

**Roll Call**—Present were Chuck Gregory, Susan White, Jim Fog (presiding), Barbara Schultz, John Bond, Jeff Mobus (by invitation), Chuck Wise (by invitation), Kristi Morris (ex officio), James Kraft (for the public) and, by telephone, Josie Hingston.

**Announcements**—There were no announcements

**Additions to Agenda** — There were no additions to the agenda. Discussion of the proposed hunting ordinance was moved to follow discussion of the Town Plan.

**Approval of minutes of previous meeting**— Moved to accept the minutes as presented (Schultz/Bond). Passed unanimously.

**Old Business**—

— **Dilapidated ski shed demolition**— No further progress on it. Jeff Mobus said he had spoken with Adam Middleton. Jim Fog said he would volunteer to help John Robsion.

— **Removal of concrete blocks at Hartness Park**— Barbara Schultz reported she will notify Jeff Mobus that the blocks may be moved when the VYCC crew has completed its work at the park. The crew began work on the boardwalk this week.

— **Hartness Park/Muckross connector trail sign**— Jim described the size and visibility of the present signs. He said he has been unable to find a person in the state administration who deals with park signage. Barbara Schultz volunteered to undertake communication with the state to clear up the problems underlying the issue.

—**Follow up work**— This referred to the VYCC work mentioned under concrete block issues, above.

## **New Business—**

### **—Discussion with Town Planner on accomplishing proposed Town Plan action items**

Town Planner Chuck Wise reported the revised Town Plan has been adopted. He asked the Committee to submit recommendations on how to implement the parts relevant to the Committee's work. Barbara Schultz provided excerpts (attached) that may be relevant to the Committee's charge. Chuck Wise asked if there was anything in the plan that the committee wants to prioritize. Jim Fog mentioned an example: the need to update the present maps to reflect the proper boundaries of the park. Jim Fog mentioned "connectivity" might bear upon the proximity of the Town Forest with Meeting Waters YMCA camp. Barbara said Meeting Waters does not want to have town trails going into it. Jim Fog said parking adjacent to the forest would be a likely priority. The committee resolved to determine priorities based on Barbara's excerpts. Chuck Wise said that what the committee reports to him he will work out with the Planning Commission for the Town Plan. Jim said he feels hunting should be allowed in the Meeting Waters Municipal Forest. John reiterated that firearm discharge is specifically allowed on that property by ordinance. Barbara mentioned that, in its June recommendation to the Selectboard, the Committee suggested that a new ordinance regarding Hartness Park should re-state the town's support for hunting at Meeting Waters. Barbara Schultz listed the various agencies that have jurisdiction over differing recreational parcels. Chuck Wise departed at 6:13.

**—Update on Hartness Park firearms ordinance—** Jeff Mobus reported that the Selectboard meeting on the topic was considered constructive, and that a petition for a town vote to overturn the rule was received on September 25th. The vote will be held before Thanksgiving. The committee discussed the need for an accurate map of Hartness Park indicating the 500-foot buffer area around the area covered by pre-existing firearms ordinance. Moved that the committee draft a statement explaining why we made the recommendation to exclude the discharge of firearms in Hartness Park. (Schultz/White). Passed unanimously. John Bond will submit a draft summary for review by the Committee.

**—Times for opening and closing park gages—**By consensus, discussion of this was deferred to the next meeting

**—Toonerville Trail Interstate exit modification—** Jeff Mobus reported meeting with the state. The State wants the selectboard to pick one of the three options the state offered. Chuck Gregory suggested an additional alternative of a pedestrian bridge that would clear the north and south access roads and pass under the Interstate bridges. The Committee agreed this option should be included in a discussion at its next meeting. Chuck will provide a sketch to the Committee for that discussion..

—**Water project construction on Toonerville Trail**—Jeff Mobus reported a portion will be closed near the junction of Seavers Brook Road so the town can bore under it to run water pipes in the vicinity of Matulonis Auto Body. Heavy equipment will be involved; the trail will be closed for about two weeks at most.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 24th. The agenda will be:

SPRINGFIELD TRAILS AND RURAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH,  
5:30 PM  
TOWN OFFICES MEETING ROOM

Call to order

Roll call

Announcements

Additions to the agenda

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Old business

Report on gate opening and closing for Hartness Park

Report on ski shed demolition, VYCC work and concrete block removal at Hartness Park

Report on status of Muckcross-Hartness Park connector signs issue

Discussion of town vote regarding Hartness Park firearms ordinance

Discussion of Interstate/Toonerville Trail proposed modification

Discussion of action items to pursue in Town Plan

New Business

TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

chuck gregory, secretary