

The Delaney Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 8, 2024

Members in attendance:

Fran Gilman, Rich Young, Frank Callahan, Grace Larson

Also: Paul Woodruff, Tammy Holcomb, Courtney Behnken and Caitrin Maloney from Slate Valley Trails, Don Pruess

Meeting Called to order at 6:58 pm

- Rich motions to approve minutes from December meeting, Frank seconds, all approve.
- Fran welcomes the Slate Valley Trail members.
 - o The Delaney Committee will put up the frame for the sign, then SVT will have the sign made and install it.
 - o Courtney – Wells Forest is such a great resource, the trails are great, they just need some improvements. The kiosk will help users utilize the trails.
 - o SVT has an improvement committee to promote the Wells trails.
 - o Parking lot should be improved, Courtney asks if the committee/town would be able to contribute towards this.
 - o If we want to expand the parking lot we need to check if we need permitting from the state, and also check with VLT.
 - o Fran suggests we set up a meeting with SVT and VLT to discuss parking lot improvements. Pam Burlingame would probably be willing to attend.
 - o Caitrin has done a lot of research with her husband regarding parking lot permits/improvements and can contribute information. Hoping Wells will contribute some funding.
 - o Courtney asks if we can have a sort of “Grand Opening” of the refurbished trails/parking lot along with an event at the lakeside park, including SVT, VLT, any interested town groups.
 - o Paul asks who is maintaining the SVT trails in Delaney woods?
- Courtney responds that SVT has recently moved from a volunteer only staff to employing 2 staff members for maintenance during the summer. Volunteers are still involved.
- Next steps:
 - o SVT will send requested dimensions for kiosk to Fran, who will bring to Select Board to review and improve. The kiosk will include maps and guidelines for use.
 - o Once approved by all parties, Fran et al. will build frame and SVT will get the sign made and install it.
 - o Tammy asks if SVT is asking Wells to contribute for signs, we should perhaps check and see if the vendor we normally use can do it at a lower cost.
 - o The cost for posts for the signs should be included in any proposal.
 - o SVT wants to add small “Wayfarer” signs (trail markers) to delineate trails in the woods – these cost about \$15, 3-6 would be required, SVT will pay for these.
- Courtney mentions that in the future it might be a good idea to add paper maps to the kiosk, this is an idea for future consideration.
- For now – SVT will send a budget proposal for entire signage proposal to the Delaney Committee, we will discuss and respond.
- We will schedule a parking lot visit in spring with the committee, SVT, hopefully VLT, at least one member of the Select Board and the Road Crew.

- Fran asks if we should put up some kind of barrier so visitors will know where they should not drive/park beyond.
- A new landowner agreement with SVT should be signed, Courtney will draft and send to Wells to be reviewed and signed.
- SVT will send data from their trail counter (user #s) to the town (this includes bike and foot traffic).

This ends the conversation with SVT.

- Budget: Nothing new
- Guidelines/signage will be a spring project.
- Rich will contact LSCCF to coordinate the event.
- Grace continues to work on Delaney plan for VLT.
- Tammy suggests coordinating SVT event with a park event.
- Fran: Milkhouse was run into by a vehicle.
 - o Don has talked to town insurance, the milkhouse was not specifically insured.
 - o Tammy asks if we can file a claim.
 - o Don has filed a report with the town's insurance, who will investigate, the State Police were involved, we need to see what happens.
 - o Don states that there is an individual who might be interested in buying the milkhouse, but this damage will be an issue.
 - o Tammy emphasizes that Fran should take comprehensive pictures before doing anything to the milkhouse.
 - o Fran is planning on shoring up the structure before any more damage happens, then we can figure out if it's salvageable.
 - o Tammy – hopefully the town's insurance company will go after the driver's insurance, and it will be covered.
 - o Don – we have a \$1,000 deductible on our insurance.
 - o Don will get an answer from the town's insurance in the next couple of days, Fran will take more pictures then reinforce the structure.
- Don points out that we need to get a 911 address for the Delaney woods parking lot. Don has made a call about this and is waiting to hear back. We should make sure there is one and make sure it's added to kiosk information.
 - o Tammy asks if Haystack mountain parking area has a 911 address?
 - o Fran will ask Courtney if they have info about this?
 - o Is there a 911 address for the pavilion?
- Tammy thanks everyone who worked on fixing the fence, sign, trimming bushes, etc. the park looks great.
- Don asks about recruiting another member – we should post on Front Porch Forum, Tammy will make sure it is posted on Facebook and website. Don suggests asking SVT if anyone is interested.

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7:58 Rich motions to adjourn, Frank 2nds, all agree. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting, February 12, 2024, 7pm at the Wells Town Office.

Dated January 10, 2024, Grace Larson, Secretary