

Non-Motorized Trail Committee Minutes

June 26, 2017

1. Meeting called to order by Anne Small at 5:33 PM
2. Roll call: present were Jimmy Vogel, Jim Swenson, Becky Dunn, Mary Planter, Penny McCormick, Marion Janssen and Anne Small. Absent was Bob Schell.
3. Open meeting verification – Anne Small said she posted the minutes before noon on June 23, 2017
4. Jim Swenson made motion to approval the agenda, seconded by Mary Platner. Motion approved.
5. Anne Small made motion to approve minutes of the April 26th meeting. Mary Platner seconded motion. Motion approved.
6. Awassa Trail Items for discussion/action:
 - a. Anne Small stated that the committee should come up with a plan for completing the new 1.6 mi loop this fall. She said this loop would be used for hiking, skiing and snowshoeing, and asked whether we should try to do the work ourselves or go out for bids. Jimmy Vogel asked the width for this new trail. Anne stated that the approved width from the Stewardship plan was cleared to 10' wide with the actual trail surface down to bare ground at 7'. Anne said that the volunteer group on Earth Day cleared approximately ½ mile, with an additional ¼ mile of woods trail that was already clear. Mary Platner asked how much money we had in the Awassa fund. Marion said it was just over \$11,000. The committee agreed that we should try to get one more volunteer work day to clear the brush and small trees on the last portion of the loop, then go out for bids for the work removing the stumps and grading the trail surface. Anne said she would work on writing a bid description that they could review at the July meeting and then present to the full Town Board for approval after that.
 - b. Mary Planter said that her carpenter had heart surgery so wasn't able to build the bench for the Shambo memorial, but should be getting to it very soon.
7. Bike Trail items for discussion/action:
 - a. Committee discussed the sign changes and additions that they would be making at the intersection of the bike trail and County J that evening, which should help alleviate some of the bikers' confusion in wayfinding.
 - b. Jimmy Vogel noted that the eastern most bridge along the new section of bike trail has standing water over both approaches and water within an inch or so of the top of the bridge surface. Committee agreed that it would be good to post signs warning bikers of water in trail. Anne Small said she would make laminated signs that say "Caution Standing Water Ahead" for posting on both sides as bikers approach the bridge.
 - c. Jimmy also said the trail does need mowing and blowing. Jim Swenson would inform Tim Ebert but was unsure if it would get done before the Independence Day holiday.
 - d. Anne Small said that she was contacted by Sonya Margitan from the DNR, who said she gave Elmer's permission to post 3 signs along the dirt woods road that extends from the South Bay trailhead toward their horse trails station "Caution Horse Trail Ahead". She also asked us if we could post something warning bikers of the danger of biking down those trails because it spooks the horses. Committee agreed that we should post a sign on the map kiosk that states, "Bikers: Please stay on paved trails" as a way to keep them from biking down that dirt trail, although Ms. Margitan stated it is public land so open to all uses. Anne would make up the sign and get it laminated to post.

8. Fern Ridge Trail – Marion Janssen stated that she had a title search done on the Forest Lane access to Sump Dump and that the property had been deeded to the town by two separate land owners. It was 50' wide. Committee felt this would be wide enough to allow for both vehicular and snowmobile traffic in the winter if the town were to set up a sledding hill. Marion said she would get this information to John Vojta.
9. Freedom 5K update: Anne Small said that volunteers were needed for stuffing bags on Friday evening before the race and also on race day. Becky Dunn planned to help Friday evening. Jimmy Vogel and his wife Jeanna would help on race day. Anne said that Bob Schell also offered to help on race day. Marion said she would be working as a rescue team on race day and Penny McCormick said she would be running in the race.
10. Next committee meeting was scheduled for July 20th at 5:30 PM.
11. Anne Small adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM and the some of the committee would reconvene at the intersection of Parkway and Cty J to make the sign changes and adjustments.
12. Committee completed the sign work at 8:15 PM.