

Minutes of the Rail Trail Committee
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
7 PM at the Mansfield Airport

Present:

Kathy Ebert-Zawasky
Denny Goodrich
Scott Holman
Karen Kenter-Potty
Jon Kitchen

Linda Kollett
Sandy Ollerhead
Jackie Schmidt (SRPEDD
representative)
Dan Sugar

I. The meeting was called to order by Karen Kenter-Potty at 7 PM

II. The minutes of the previous meeting (6/20) were accepted. It was noted that the minutes are available on the web site and will also be emailed to committee members.

III. Founder's Day Wrap-up

There was general consensus that Founder's Day had gone well. The bean bag toss and candy prizes provided lots of opportunities to hand out fliers and get names of supporters.

Sandy reported that all the comments she heard were positive.

Jon did overhear a somewhat negative comment from an abutter.

Denny reported positive comments from the Town Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief and head of DPW.

There are now 160 names of supporters from the Town of Norton on Sandy's list.

The Facebook page has 350 "likes". It was pointed out that these may not all be from Norton.

Suggestions for next year include:

More signage, including a banner. There was some discussion about where to have a banner made and whether or not a logo was needed. (See logo discussion later.)

IV. Meeting with Town Officials

Karen tried to make appointments to talk with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and head of DPW, but was successful with only the Fire Chief. The minutes of the meeting with the Fire Chief were distributed and discussed.

It was agreed that we should try to be sure our path design gets integrated into the design for Route 123 repair and replacement. Jackie suggested looking at special lights embedded in the road that flash when someone is in the crosswalk.

Andrea Henry has agreed to write a letter supporting the Rail Trail project that will be reviewed and signed by the Fire Chief.

Denny said that the Norton Fire Chief has offered to get a letter from the Mansfield Fire Chief and it was agreed that a letter was a good idea.

It was also agreed that Mike Yunits, Town Manager, should be asked to call a meeting of the Fire Chief, Police Chief and head of DPW so that issues can be discussed with all present.

There was also agreement that Mansfield DPW should be asked about maintenance costs for their trail.

V. Preparation for Meeting with Bill Desantis

The following is a list of questions and concerns:

1. Concerns about road crossings
2. Ideas from crossings on other bike paths
3. Specifics on the problems with Route 123
4. Money, how firm is the estimate of the cost to the town? How much change might we expect? Have then new guidelines been clarified?
5. Options for surface at the LPS Dahl property if permission is given to use it
 - a. bridges
 - b. boardwalk
 - c. crushed stone
 - d. other
6. Environmental concerns – wetlands, vernal pools, salamander crossings etc.
7. How to prevent buckled pavement
8. Reducing or eliminating water problems
9. Parking
 - a. what are the guidelines for number of spaces
 - b. how many different areas are needed
 - c. handicap parking
 - d. emergency vehicle requirements
10. Any other advice for the committee

VI. Subcommittees

At least 20 people indicated an interest in serving on a subcommittee for the project. It was decided that Public Outreach would be the first subcommittee formed. This committee would, among other things:

1. Distribute brochures and posters to busy places in town. Suggestions included Gold's Gym, Personal Best Karate, town pool, Planet Fitness, dance studio, CVS, Haskins, Roche Bros. library, library concerts, etc.

Kathy will design 8 ½" X 11" posters that include the QR code
Andrea is working on having business cards printed with the QR code and web address

About 125 brochures have been printed. It was agreed that more should be printed when these are gone. Both Jon and Jackie offered printing services. Jackie also offered to print about 50 posters.

2. Make sure that the supplies are replenished as necessary

It was agreed that all subcommittees should have a regular committee member involved.

Denny and Sandy will work on an email to send out to the potential volunteers with a job description. They will oversee the program until September, after which Linda will take over.

VII. Scavenger Hunt Report

Denny reported that so far he has not had any luck with a donation of a prize from a bicycle shop, but he thinks he may have some success with LL Bean.

VIII. Ideas for Future Meetings

There was discussion about a name and a logo. It was decided that once the actual town committee is formed, there will be a contest for the name and logo. There was some discussion about announcing the contest. Facebook, Norton Patch and local newspapers were suggested. The details still have to be worked out.

A Friends of the Trail group was also suggested. If this is set up as a non-profit group for fund raising, it will have to await approval of an official town committee.

Abutters need to be carefully considered. All abutters received written notice about the first meeting. Once the official committee is formed there will be further discussion about the best way to proceed.

The meeting adjourned at 9PM

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 24 at 7 PM at the Mansfield Airport.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kollett, secretary