

Approved as written 10/10/19

Southbridge Trail Committee Meeting
Thursday July 11, 2019 3:30 pm
G. Parent Room

Meeting called to order at 3:34pm

Present: Paul Van Camp, Kevin Buxton, Ken Pickren, Pat Charron
Ron San Angelo
Absent: Ray Arnold

Before Town Manager Ron San Angelo joined us, Paul started with a brief summary of our understanding of the Town Council sub-committee meeting outcome: the lease is the issue - a good lease is better than no lease (if one is possible.) Working with Dept of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) might be a better option; also, could be advantage to working with Dudley under one umbrella.

Ron now in attendance. Highlights regarding the QVRT:

- 1st issue is DOT's lack of interest; don't care about trails.
DRC could be a good option but would they be interested or have funds. We may wish to have DCR in the early process as they do "trails" and could make things smoother.
- State representatives should be involved to help with politics and funding.
Paul mentioned having Dudley as part of process could be a plus.
Ron wasn't concerned about a lease if DCR takes control.
State reps first, then DCR

It was noted that a lease might be important due to possible future changes (agency admin, etc.) and for town's liability.

Ron did not feel that there would be flexibility from the DOT with regard to the lease.

- Our reps: Durant and Fattman. Others? start with making them aware of situation

Ken mentioned a proposal developed by the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

Town Manager felt the hardest task would be getting a State or Gov't office to designate/donate funds toward this project.

Kevin noted that any grant monies applied for require that property have ownership or lease.

Ron said there are some issues of liability at the Crane Street area. DCR would need to address these. He felt lease may not be issue with DCR.

For the Central Mass Rail Trail, DCR owns but individual towns maintain.

So, let's start with Dudley to determine their interest, then Durant who represents both us and them, then meeting with state reps.

Ron called Dudley Town Administrator, Jonathan Ruda, about his willingness to meet with us, possibly Ken Butkiewicz (very involved in Dudley section), and Durant/Fattman to get conversation going. Jonathan was agreeable, Ron would set up.

Paul explained our interest in spur of the railroad: Webster, into CT then Dudley into Sbdge ending at Crane Street, approx 11 miles w/ CT.

Dumping at Stone Arch Bridge - per Ron, town has control of property due to non-payment of taxes but not ownership (owned by Lazo family.) There are liability concerns, town prefers taxes be paid and owner retains. One year "probation" period is now in process. DEP involvement?

End of meeting with Ron

Paul said that he finished weed-whacking McKinstry Brook South as well as the area around the McKinstry Brook North lot. On the July 21 maintenance day we can check the rest of McK North.

Pat will contact Tom Chamberlain of the Sturbridge Trail Committee with the following questions:

- town owned equipment for use by the committee?
- using volunteer and non-town people for maintenance? liability?
- certifications for equipment use/ safety gear for workers?

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul, 2nd by Ken. 4:52pm.