

Southbridge Trail Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2019
E. Petrelli Room

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

Attendance: Paul Van Camp, Kevin Buxton, Ken Pickren, Pat Charron

Motion to approve the February 14th 2019 meeting minutes was made by Kevin, seconded by Pat. Passed unanimously.

Pat asked about Ray Arnold's status; it is unknown at this time.

Paul proposed a spring 2019 trail maintenance schedule as follows:

Sunday, April 28	Heritage Trails	Prior assessment by Kevin
Sunday, May 12	QVRT - GG to Dudley	Paul
Sunday, June 2	QVRT - Crane to Hook	Pat
Sunday, June 16	Cole Forest	Ken
Sunday, July 7	McKinstry Brook-South	Paul
Sunday, July 21	McKinstry Brook-North	Ken

All times are 9-11 am

Schedule was agreed upon by attendees. Paul will post on Friends of Southbridge Trails.

QVRT Status

Paul emailed Ron to question if we need a survey and also for status of lease with Chalita; no response from her.

On February 26 the committee met with Ken Butkiewicz, who was instrumental to the Dudley to CT section of the QVRT. He answered questions and we felt his information was helpful.

Paul felt that we should move forward with doing a presentation to the Planning & Development sub-committee. Do we have a map of the area? Ken thought he might have a map of the sections from the Dudley line to Crane Street. Kevin noted that he has pictures of various sections.

The presentation should include:

- an overall map
- show existing conditions in pictures
- our vision, what we hope to accomplish

should also cover width, surface materials, issues involved with steel removal, parking area(s) and access points

Maybe in our best interest to concentrate on Section 2 (Rte 131 to Morris Street)

Several ideas, options and preferences were discussed concerning the above; to include contractors, equipment, what equipment can do what jobs, possible costs, potential funds from sale of rails, disposal of ties, etc.

Ken has spoken with Gary Guertin as a possible contract that may have the proper equipment.

There are a few companies that can deal with the steel rails, however, we are not quite ready for that process yet.

The ties will be more of an issue but there are still possibilities.

We are still keeping in mind Dave Adams' suggestion that we do a presentation to the Planning & Development sub-committee. What we are expecting from his committee: information? support? suggestions?

Ken noted that 20% of total amount of grant will be needed.

Kevin proposed that we try to do 100 ft, section by Rte 131 might be easiest, to show our intent to the various parties we will be dealing with; a kind of prototype sections 3 & 4.

It was noted that the steel rails are an asset but is work cost more than value?

At this time the only public access point we know of is the DMV lot. Are all other possible access points on private land? AO lot an option, with permission? Not all access points may have parking. Will need to check.

We should include access points in the presentation

Dave Adams, co-chair of the Planning & Development sub-committee stopped in. We gave him a brief update. Dave gave us some of his thoughts, including that we incorporate our wants and needs in the presentation; he noted that May might be an option for our presentation to P&D sub-committee. Paul noted a lack of response from town DPW. It is a frustrating process!!

We are expecting the Town Manager to submit a budget for our projects to the Town Council; hopefully will have a May or June response.

Next meeting date is April 11, 2019.

As Paul will be absent for April 11 meeting, we may wish to meet at the end of April/early May to firm up details for the P & D presentation.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin; seconded by Paul.

submitted by Pat Charron

