

Worcester Recreation Committee Minutes

Location: Zoom

Time: 04/18/2024 6:42pm-8:02pm

Contents

1 Members Present

1. Caitlin
2. Tracker
3. Nancy
4. Chris
5. Michael

2 Guests Present

- Mark Johnson

3 Approval of Minutes

The committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from 2024-03-21.

4 Old Business

4.1 Vermont Land Trust Management Plan

Nancy, Michael, and Caitlin provided feedback on the current draft of the management plan.

4.1.1 Action Items

Tracker Integrate comments into new draft of the plan.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1McIJBm6VnD5D9MqjF9jji9hewEysh_2a/edit

4.2 Town Trails

Chris spoke with Toni Kaeding about using the Ellis-Bruce parking area for use on additional trails that we might extend out from there. It was built by the town and is within the town's right of way of the road. Toni is glad to let us use it for trail purposes.

Toni also told Chris that she is working with a woman in Putnamville to extend a trail from her property down to Putnamville. Chris has asked Toni to present it to our committee once this project has progressed a bit further.

Chris' family has been working on trail sign designs and will have something to present soon. He has proposed constructing a branding iron with the chosen design that we can use to burn into wood blocks for our trail signs.

Caitlin and Michael spoke with Aaron and Sarah on the Hundred Acre Homestead about marking their existing trail from the Ellis-Bruce parking area down part of Gould Hill. They were enthusiastic about the idea.

Tracker registered for the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Annual Meeting at the North Branch Nature Center on May 3 from 10am-3:30pm.

<https://vermonttgc.org/annual-meeting-2024>

Nancy suggested that we should post a notice about the VTGC meeting on FPF to see if there are other local folks who would be interested in participating in trail work around Worcester.

4.2.1 Action Items

Tracker Post on FPF about VTGC meeting

Tracker Attend the VTGC meeting on 5/3

Chris Finish trail designs and present them to the committee

Chris Update Landowner Liability form

4.3 Rt 12 Bike Lane Effort

Caitlin sent a one-page summary of our bike lane proposal to the WRC mailing list. Tracker sent this on to his contact at the CVRPC along with the Rt 12 GIS assessment map that he and Josh Seidman produced last year.

4.3.1 Action Items

Tracker Report back to the committee once he hears back from the CVRPC.

4.4 Existing Facilities

Tyler Whalen has offered to scrape and blowtorch any cracks in the basketball court to remove any weeds. He is also willing to replace the current splintering bench boards by the court side.

Chris offered to reimburse Tyler for any wood or other supplies he uses when upgrading the benches.

The committee voted to request Tyler's assistance and to reimburse him for materials.

Caitlin identified the Preservation Trust of Vermont as a potential grant funding source for improving/revitalizing facilities in the Ladd Field and Haymeadow (e.g., the basketball court, soccer fields, little league field). Each project could receive between \$200,000-\$450,000. They only fund communities with less than 2500 people.

<https://ptvermont.org/village-trust-initiative/>

4.4.1 Action Items

Caitlin Send a message to Tyler and the WRC mailing list

Everyone Review the Preservation Trust website (linked above)

4.5 Onion River Soccer Club Updated Schedule

ORSC sent us their updated schedule for the 2024 season. Here it is below:

— From Gary Holloway —

Practices (Starting the week of April 22):

- Mondays 5:00-6:30pm
- Tuesdays 5:00-7:45pm
- Wednesdays 5:00-6:30pm
- Thursdays 5:00-7:45pm

Games (Running May 5 through June 9):

- Saturdays
- Sundays

5 New Business

5.1 Little League (between 5/1 and 6/16)

Mark Johnson from Central Vermont Little League spoke with the committee about the league's plans to use the Worcester baseball field this season. Due to flooding, the Calais field is not currently usable, so some of these players will probably make use of the Worcester field for practices and games as well.

In the longer term, he is seeking assistance with:

- improving the dugouts (preventing splinters, etc.)
- adding seating for viewers
- adding a port-a-potty for players and attendees
- leveling out undulations in the field

In the near term, he is requesting the usage of the field by CVLL for this season.

The committee voted to approve CVLL's request to use the Worcester baseball field this season for weekday night practices and for Saturday morning games.

We requested an official schedule once CVLL has one finalized for this season.

We also informed him that CVLL needs to send the Town Office proof of their insurance.

Mark was notified about not parking next to the Worcester Historical Society building, so as to avoid parking on top of the in-ground septic system there.

5.2 Worcester Garage Sale in Ladd Field, Sat May 24th - 9am to 1pm

Genevieve Cambron proposed a town garage sale in the Ladd Field in late May on FPF. Gillian Fuqua offered up the Doty gymnasium in the event of bad weather. The Selectboard requested that the WRC discuss this request and determine next steps.

The WRC was generally in approval of the event but was concerned that no one has yet been identified who would be responsible for making sure that the Ladd Field is clear of trash after the event.

5.2.1 Action Items

Caitlin Send a message to Genevieve asking her to identify a responsible party for keeping the Ladd Field cleaned after the event.

5.3 Ladd Field Walk

Caitlin invited the committee to walk the field again during our next meeting to assess its current state and to review its usage for this year.

The committee will meet in the Doty parking lot at the beginning of next month's meeting and then head out together to walk the field. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held in the Doty Music Room.

5.3.1 Action Items

Caitlin Warn the new meeting location.

6 Next Meeting

Thursday, May 16 @ 6:30pm at the Ladd Field (meet in Doty parking lot)