

Marbletown Trails Committee
September 29, 2020
5 p.m. Outside the Community Center rear entrance

Attendees: Andy Lutz, Chris Schoonmaker, Ron Pierce, Jill McLean, Sandy Sheeley, Bill Eggers, Rich Hines, John Michalski, Eric Stewart, Carl Pezzino

Carl thanked all segment trailkeepers for all their hard work over the summer. Many trees had to be removed and cut up. Jill's coordination was much appreciated.

From the Agenda Items

Verify current members and segments – the Trail Committee member list was reviewed with a focus on active members and those not active any more. See the attached list where some inactive members were removed from trail segment responsibility. A sub-committee of John, Chris and new member Sandy was formed to itemize segment trail keeper responsibilities. They will report back at our next meeting.

Vote on new member Sandy Damon Sheeley – Sandy was unanimously welcomed to the committee. We are all excited to have Sandy “officially” on our team.

Historic signs status (Installation by Timely Signs to begin Tuesday, 9-22-2020 -Jill) – The new signs were installed on 9-22 and 9-23. All agreed that the workers at Timely Signs did a great job. Accolades for these beautiful signs are now being heard all along the trail. Jill McLean was thanked for spearheading this operation. Jill announced she is working on a “grand opening” party to be held in mid-October at Tongore Park to thank the 7 member design team.

College connector status, Main St. to College via Ridgewell Fitness and Davenport property (Carl/Eric)- Carl and Eric attended a planning and zoning field review of the solar plant and the connector at Ridgewell. The two plans are combined due to NYS storm water review requirements. The review went well with Planning and Zoning chair Dan Proctor leading the review.

Current directional signs maintenance (paint?)- The committee agreed that the directional signs all along the trail need some spiffing up. A plan to move forward needs to be worked out.

New signs at Corner of Lucas and 213 directing to O&W north/south and High Falls; and Leggett Trail head to Stone Ridge – Committee agreed new directional signs are needed at these corners. Right of way issues with current land owners and county and state permissions may be required. Jill to look into.

Brochures?? How many left?- Jill – Jill reported a box full (900) are left. Enough to get us to early spring probably. The brochures are a O&W Coalition product, so the request for more will need to come from that committee. Carl will follow up at next Coalition meeting.

Trail user social distance and face mask policy discussion – Committee quickly reached consensus that the proper actions of our trail users were evident and following the rules due to Covid19. Further enforcement was deemed not necessary and no signage changes are required.

Bluebird boxes, repair or replace?- A discussion followed on the condition of the “bluebird” houses. All agreed that blue birds were not using the houses that are on our half mile markers, but that other bird species and small rodents were using the houses. Segment trailkeepers are asked to clean out the houses when no longer required for nesting by these critters. No action was taken on repair or replacement.

Kiosk pamphlet holder clean out (Jill and Jess?)- Jill and Jess are taking this project on to clean up the holders on all our kiosks, and also the plexiglass covering over our large map display on all our kiosks. Thanks Jill and Jess!

Bench repair and survey – Jill and Jess will survey the condition of all the benches along our trail. Chris cleaned up the bench on Marcott north near on our new Marbletown Past and Present display. A team of Andy, Carl, Larry and Rich will replace all the back and seat boards with already purchased pressure treated boards on the bench on Cottekill North next to the little bridge on Friday October 9. Meet at 8:30 a.m. At Davenports for coffee.

Large group of leaners at Marcott north by first half mile marker (Jill/Highway) -Chris remains concerned that this problem has not yet been addressed by Highway. Carl had expected that the problem would be addressed by Highway this week. Jill has already followed up with Highway.

New safety shirts from Kenco? (Rich H.)- The committee is requesting new safety shirts and hooded sweat shirts. It was decided that the current shirt color (yellow) be used. Shirts should be mostly made of cotton to absorb sweat. A dozen of each should be ordered. Sizes mostly large. One extra large and several ladies size. Carl, Rich and Jill will meet with Kenco designer on Thursday, October first to discuss an order.

Rest Plaus crossing embankment clearing responsibility- Chris reported that he has been clearing the embankments as best he can but it is a tough job and a little dangerous due to the steep slope especially on the north side. Eric offered to look into the possibility of a pollinator garden or low growing plants that would not need much maintenance on the slopes. Water access could be a problem.

Also the gravel run off on the sides of the bridge will be investigated and repaired. Same situation at the Kripplebush Creek bridge.

Other issues brought up at the meeting.

Still need a report on the structural safety of trail bridges from Scott Davis. Eric to follow up.

Flail mowing the sidewalls of the trail before winter. Carl to follow up with Highway.

New dangerous 'sword of Damacles' branch and dead tree at Boices Lane cross road with trail needs to removed by Highway. Jill has already followed up with Highway.

The long 8 foot gate center post at Cottekill North northern most gate needs to be cut down and flanged to make for easy removal and prevent freezing in the winter. Jill to get with Scott at Highway.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm, Next meeting TBD.