

Marbletown Trails Committee Meeting
July 9, 2019
Minutes

Members present:

Carl Pezzino, Andy Lutz, Bill Eggers, Eric Stewart, John Michalski, Lea Springstead, Chris Schoonmaker.

Call To Order: Carl called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. (NB: There was no meeting in June.)

Old Business

0 **Jill McLean reported via email that the Rail Trail Historic Sign Committee will meet again on July 17.** The historic sign design will be further discussed. Potential locations for historic markers continue as follows: Hurley/Marbletown town line, Beaver Pond, Snyder silos, trestle bridge location, High Falls train station, Rest Plaus historic area, Hansen Grist Mill, Kripplebush Creek bridge. \$1875 is being held by the town to pay for these signs through donations in memory of Dave Sheeley. **Jill will provide an update at our next meeting.**

0 Eric has contacted **Scot Davis for a report on the safety status of our 7 trail bridges.** Of special concern is the rusting out of the I beams under the bridge at Damon's crossing.

0 Rest Plaus parking status. A deed has been issued by Ulster County showing ownership of the land by the town. Approval for construction from Central Hudson along their right of way on the newly acquired town property has been received from Central Hudson. **Carl met with Highway Superintendent George Dimler and Scot Hikade assistant superintendent and construction is expected to begin in mid-July.** The parking area was completely mowed by Highway on July 11th. It looks real good.

0 The concern of the encroachment of a shed south of Leggett Road by an adjacent land owner has been tabled for now.

0 Carl has again sent a note on July 8th to Ricki Schweizer (High Falls train station) in hopes of securing a permanent easement over her land. **Eric will ask Rich to followup with his own note to Ricki in an attempt to elicit a response (or perhaps a town attorney letter could be sent.)**

0 An initiative has begun to allow for a walkway passage with public parking from the new Ridgewell gym on Rte. 209 to SUNYUlster. All rights of way for the town appear to be achievable. **Right of way agreements with the owners and the town are now being worked up by the town attorney. (We will be needing a name for this walkway. Suggestions?)**

0 The town, in cooperation with the High Falls Conservancy, is working on the possibility of applying for a NYS CFA grant for funding of the Creek Walk project from Lucas Avenue to the Five Locks Walk in High Falls, including an upgrade of Grady Park. **One of two potential consultants may be hired to submit the grant application by the deadline of July 26th.**

New Business

0 **Welcome new member Chris Schoonmaker!!**

0 Post meeting a work party met on 7/10 at 7:30am at Davenport's then headed to clean up downed and leaning trees on the trail north of Marcott parking to the town line. This was a very successful work party. This part of the trail, 2.5 miles, now looks great.

0 **A history of the current rights of way legal agreements for the trail is being assembled by Lea and Carl and will be incorporated into a spread sheet. New rights of way that may be required will also be tracked.** This is being done in an effort to make all rights of way along the trail non-revocable for use when applying for future grant requests, and preserving permanent public access to the trail.

0 **Lea suggested starting a review of invasive species along the trail. She has provided a short report on their removal.**

The literature tends to suggest the use of herbicides to kill invasive species, as mowing will knock loose seed pods while the subterranean root structure remains intact. However, there is the mention of vinegar as a powerful and effective alternative to the use of toxic chemical herbicide. Other suggested methods for removal include a combination of cutting back the vegetation and treating with natural caustic (such as vinegar or coffee) and repeating until vegetation ceases to grow. However, and as we all know, there are a vast amount of opinions on the internet about the removal of plants like Japanese Knotweed. Ultimately, we will have to do what is within the realm of reason and resource.

Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting is the second Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 7pm at the MCC.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carl Pezzino, and Lea Springstead