

Southbridge Trail Committee Meeting
Thursday December 12, 2019
E. A. Petrelli Room - Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm

Present: Paul Van Camp; Ken Pickren; Ray Arnold; Pat Charron

Motion to approved November 14 minutes was made by Ken, seconded by Ray; passed unanimously.

QVRT - stabilization project

Paul emailed Gautam Sen, he is listed on the MADOT site as the project manager, with questions. Received a form letter response from DOT but nothing from Gautam.

We are in limbo until we know status of DOT work. Our concerns are resurfacing, RR ties removal and some erosion (drainage) issues.

If/when a grant is submitted, would be through town (as entity) not as trail committee.

Paul & Ken attended a Sturbridge Trails meeting in November that included the towns of Sturbridge, Dudley, Brimfield and Southbridge.

We need to get position of town with regard to applying for grant with a 20% match; will they fund? Maybe state with DPW sub-committee? Approach with scope of work? Paul doesn't wish to deal with contracts if town does not approve.

Ken will reach out to Rick Nash on DPW sub-committee; Paul to Town Manager.

Our thoughts were a grant for \$5,000-10,000 (\$50,000-100,000??) and will that be supported for the above three concerns if DOT does not do.

Ken mentioned wishing to have some brush cutting and clearing done on section 2.

If we wish to proceed with grant, due to Feb 1 deadline for 2020, do we wish to schedule a second meeting for this month? Let's start with R. Nash and Town Manager and go from there.

Heritage

Next step for signs and kiosk is \$2000 from town. Paul will check with San Angelo about process for access to funds ... forms? quotes? etc.

Heritage sign posts - 6x6?

Paul asked attendees their thoughts on a trail through town of historical places, like the Freedom Trail? Sources could be Dick Whitney, Margaret Morrissey (librarian) and Steve Brady of the Historical Society Committee.

Short discussion of possible community volunteers included working with high schoolers ... would that involve CORY status. Pat will contact school guidance council for info. Bay Path??

Next meeting is January 9, 2020.

Other Comments

Ray will contact Econ & Development office to update the Trail committee information.

Pat mentioned that she emailed Heather about clearing brush near the stone arch bridge but did not receive a response. She will try again.

New Business

Ray looked into reusable bags with a trail logo. He found bags for \$4 that did not include printing which makes them too expensive.

He contacted Bay Path and they gave him information for less expensive bags plus the school can do printing for non-profits.

Paul wondered how the costs would be covered and where would they be sold. Discussion included possible places and ways to sell; pros and cons.