

Middlesex Trails Committee
Monday, July 10, 2023
Minutes

Participants: Adrienne Magida, Michael Levine, Mitch Osiecki, Sara Moulton, George Longenecker, Dave Shepard

Michael Levine moved and George Longenecker seconded approval of the meeting minutes for June 12, 2023. Motion passed.

Update on signs (both trailhead and trail markers) - George, Sara and Mitch helped put signs up on Upper Sunnybrook, Upper Barnett and Davy Road. The Times-Argus photographer took pictures that were in the Times-Argus. There are no trail markers on Davy Road yet. Mitch would like a few people to come to decide together height considering snow, good sight lines, spacing etc. He also wonders about whether some trail marker signs could be put on the Chases Mountain Trail in spots where it seems confusing to people. There is no change on the signs for Bear Swamp Road. Mitch will continue working on that.

Plans for promoting trail use once signs are in place - [Middlesex Trails Signage Project](#) - Michael has posted on FPF that signs are up and he will continue to post periodically. We will think about scheduling walks in August when the ground has dried up a bit!

Next steps for Town Forest proposed trail - Dave will get in touch with Seth Coffeey to schedule a tentative date to walk the proposed trail with Trails and Conservation Committee members.

Update on putting Hunger Mountain trails on the What's Next Middlesex website - Dave has been unable to reach someone by phone but will try emailing to find out if the Trails Committee can post a map, do they have one and whether there is a map at the kiosk presently. He will also ask about the Trail Adopter situation and whether the Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission want to adopt the trail.

Discussion about ribbon-cutting ceremony for Chases Mountain and new trails - It was agreed that the Chases Mountain trail has been around too long to do a ribbon cutting on it but maybe in September the Trails Committee/Conservation Commission could lead a hike up the mountain, perhaps with George willing to lead.

Discussion of possible maintenance of new trails - There was general agreement that the Trails Committee should walk the trails at least once a year, if not twice, to check for blowdowns and other minimal maintenance. Mitch suggested scheduling work days and see if other people

might be willing to help with this maintenance. Mitch suggested maybe doing maintenance on some of the trails behind Rumney School on town and school owned land.

Next steps for Trails Committee - Continue work on existing trails to finish up the signage, receive feedback about the trails existing now, think about new trails on Class 4 roads that have been walked before, continue to work with the Conservation Commission to get a new easier, shorter trail in the Town Forest.

Report from Conservation Commission - Dave reported that the CC received an update from Sandy Levine about the Planning Commission's work doing an inventory of the town's natural resources. The Town got a buyout from FEMA for a property on Three Mile Bridge Road and will demolish the existing structure on the property. There was a discussion about invasive plants in Middlesex. For now the CC is holding off on possible logging in the Town Forest due to issues with access through some private property. New officers were elected - Adrienne Magida - chair, George Longenecker - vice-chair, Dave Shepard - secretary, and Ross Lieblappen - treasurer. The next meeting will be August 22.

Mitch knows someone who might be interested in joining the CC.

Michael reminded members to email the group if they walked the new trails to let everyone know how it was.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 14, 2023, the second Monday of the month. Agenda items will include updates on new Town Forest trail, Hunger Mountain trail map on website, new trail signs and markings and public communication about those trails.

Adjourn at 8:10.