

## Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes January 20, 2022 (220120) Zoom meeting

Present: Joel Arbeitman, David Rosenblum, Preston Crow, Valerie Paul, Tony Lewis, Marty Ring

Absent: Rob Scherer, Doug Costello

Guests: Yolanda Greaves, Judy Rosenthal, Chris Gazard

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Joel told us that Chuck Lidz had resigned from the AUCT committee. Chuck is concentrating his efforts on Sustainability committee and its goals. Valerie told us she would be leaving Ashland in or close to March of this year. Judy Rosenthal talked to us about her interest in joining the AUCT. Judy said she has been a member of the Friends of the Ashland Upper Charles Trail for 3 years, is an avid bicyclist and is devoted to recreational open space in Ashland.

Marty said that prospective members should come to meetings and we would vote on recommending them for membership in the AUCT after that. Preston reminded us that the Select Board appoints people to our committee. Marty said that two other Ashland residents have named the AUCT on their list of interests in their talent bank forms. They will be invited to attend our meetings.

Joel was interested in having grant writing talent to replace Chuck Lidz's expertise. Marty thought the Friends of the trail might have this expertise.

Joel told us about an email from an Ashland resident, Chris Gazard, concerning clearing of snow on the Trolley Brook Trail (TBT). Marty said we should focus on getting the trail done and leave issues like this to the town. Valerie thought that the plowing policies of the town on the TBT do not have to be the same as other trails in the town. Valerie supported plowing the TBT. Preston thought that it would be nice to plow the TBT, but the town should set the policy. Valerie said we should refer the request to the town. Chris Gazard voiced his desire to have the TBT plowed. He uses the trail regularly. Valerie asked him how he used the trail, commuting or recreation. Chris said recreation. Valerie thanked Chris for his interest in the trail.

We discussed actions items coming from Preston's presentation to the Select Board. Communication with other boards was a priority. Preston volunteered to meet with the planning Board. Preston was also willing to meet with the Conservation Commission. He said he will ask the chair of the Con Com if it is appropriate for him to do this being that Preston is a member of the Con Com. Valerie and Judy offered to meet with the Con Com instead of Preston, if needed. Tony said that he and Doug (not at this meeting, Tony to ask Doug about this) could meet with the School Committee.

We talked about having a primary speaker and supporting AUCT members at the meetings.

Marty asked about Preston's presentation at the Select Board. Joel said he would get video recording that Matt had from the meeting.

Yolanda said that easements should be the next priority, but did not know what town staff could do this and when. She said a lot was going on including public safety building construction. Yolanda said that looking at segments of the trail was important. She thought doing segments, even if they were not connected to other built segments, was fine.

Joel said that there were 10 important easements and making contact with each of the property owners was extremely important and should be done soon. The owners' feedback is very important in planning the trail.

Joel said we have the trail in three segments from the Alta plan. Yolanda thought we ought to break the trail into finer segments. Yolanda said that the town staff does not have time for working on the easements now. Further conversation about who does what and when is needed.

Tony said he had a list of smaller segments. Preston said we should concentrate on the list and that it would be useful to name the segments.

Joel asked Yolanda what the schedule is. And he asked for an estimate of time constraints. Yolanda said we should get the segment list done. She said the town should have the public safety building and Mindess school projects in pretty good shape by August.

Marty said that we did the plan for the trail and that we are cheerleaders now. We can provide clarity on the sections of the trail, then wait for a champion in the town to pick up on it. Giving the town options is what we should do.

Yolanda left the meeting at 8:22pm.

Tony asked about having a MassTrails grant project. Preston said that we do not have control over any segments to build with MassTrails grants. Preston thought that a letter to MassTrails now (copying in SB) would be helpful for future grants.

The route from Hopkinton State Park was discussed. Joel said that he heard that the Big Indian trust has two new trustees. Joel wants to explore the many easements needed to avoid Big Indian property. Preston said we should list the alternate routes.

The next AUCT meeting will be on February 3 at 7 pm.

Valerie said that we should tell the Friends group about the AUCT openings.

Motion to approve minutes of December 2, 2021 meeting as amended made by Valerie, seconded by Preston. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes of December 15, 2021 meeting as written made by Marty, seconded by Preston. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm. Motion by Valerie, seconded by Preston, Passed unanimously.

List of Documents discussed: