



TOWN OF NORTON
Alternative Transportation Committee
MINUTES

Date: September 2, 2015 Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Town Hall Break Room

Members & Staff Present:

Members:

Ebert-Zawasky, Kathy
Goodrich, Denny
Holman, Scott
Kenter, Karen
Ollerhead, Sandy
Schmid, Beata

Guests:

Gurnon, Sherri, Mansfield Director of Parks and Recreation

Members Not Present: Linda Kollett

I. Sandy Ollerhead called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Beata Schmid was welcomed as a new committee member.

II. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting was tabled.

III. Old Business

A. October Town Meeting

Norton residents need to be alerted to the need to attend the October town meeting and to vote for the trail. Kathy is going to design a new 1/2 sheet and update the poster. The posters will be put up around town to replace the original ones and the 1/2 sheets will be passed out at Opening Day for soccer on October 19th. Sandy, Kathy and Scott will attend from 9-12 to pass them out.

B. Engineering Bids

An engineering firm has given Mike Yunits an unofficial estimate for the design of the trail and it came in at significantly more than originally expected. This design included expensive items that weren't needed. The actual RFQ still hasn't been completed and released. We are running out of time before the October town meeting as it takes about 4 weeks to get the completed bids. Then the finance committee needs to review and determine whether or not to recommend it.

Denny will talk to Jackie about a sample RFQ and collect information needed for its completion. Karen will call Mike to check on its status. The committee wants to give an update to the Board of Selectmen about the RFQ and the meeting with Bill Ross, Mansfield Town Manager.

IV. New Business

A. Meeting with Bill Ross

Sandy and Karen

met with Bill Ross and Sherri Gurnon on August 20th. Mansfield will be responsible for covering 10% of the total design cost and Bill was very positive about the project and the ability to cover this cost. Mansfield doesn't have a fall town meeting but he will see if the funds can be procured before next spring. Another alternative will be to go through the capital improvements committee, which meets in November.

Assuming they approve the expenditure, it will go to the spring town meeting for a vote.

B. Getting the Word Out in Mansfield

On September

19th, Mansfield will be dedicating the mural and will have a celebration at the train station park. Beata, Denny and Karen will attend from 12-4 and distribute the updated posters. Kathy is making a 1/2 sheet specifically for Mansfield, which will also be passed out on the 19th. We will be trying to inform the Mansfield residents of the progress of the project, its benefits to Mansfield, and to drum up support.

V. Open Session

Denny brought up

advocating for rail trails nationally. Though the committee agreed this was a worthwhile endeavor, it was decided to get involved after we get ours going.

Kathy brought up the difficulty of using the Mansfield train station. Parking is limited and the bus from Norton runs infrequently. In addition, the bus doesn't wait long enough to allow a disabled person to get from the outbound side of the tracks, down the stairs and up again on the other side where the bus is waiting. This subject was also one the committee would like to pursue but again, after we launch our trail.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15, moved by Karen and seconded by Kathy.

Respectfully submitted,

(Date)

Minutes Approved by Committee on: _____

Signatures:

(Name & Title)

Chairman, _____
(Committee)