

Lancaster Trail & Bike Way Coalition Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 6:30 PM
Lancaster Town Hall Auditorium

In attendance: Noreen Piazza, Bill Flynn, Jeanne Blauner, Ted Manning

Minutes

Noreen Piazza circulated the minutes from the January 13th meeting. No changes or corrections were noted.

Planning Update

Noreen distributed draft copies of the LTBC work plan for 2016-2018. The plan is broken down into the following categories:

- Planning
- Programming
- Promotion
- Funding
- Maintenance

Years 2016 and 2017 were populated with information, with 2018 being a work in progress at this time. We will continue to refine the work plan at the next meeting on 5/11.

In the Planning category, the following activities were listed for 2016:

- Continued identification of trail connections – internal/external
- Continued trail mapping of expanded trail systems, new connections
- Apply for Complete Streets designation and funding, identify Complete Streets accommodations for bikers/pedestrians
- Create a capital plan for trail development, maintenance and promotion
- Consider appropriate locations for ATV users
- Continue to send representation to the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition

Noreen reported that the first four trail connections maps are almost ready for circulation. She will send to the LTBC for review within the next couple of weeks.

Noreen also reported that the MRPC organization sent a proposal to LTBC for developing a mobile application that would assist trail users to navigate the trails and learn interesting facts/information about each of our trails. The application is called MR Mapper, and copies of the proposal were circulated. It was decided to add this item to the newly-created capital plan.

Programming Update

The Programming category in the 2016 work plan included:

- Continue work with the Recreation Committee to develop monthly programs that use our trails and bike ways

As an update to the 2016 Lancaster Trail Walk Series, the following are the Spring and Summer walks that are scheduled to date:

- April 30 – Early Riser Warbler Walk at the Cook CA
- May 1 – Spring Bird Walk at the Town Forest
- May 14 – Pine Hill walk, with possible tour of Mentor Flats Farm
- June – Guided Garden walk
- July – Lancaster Town Beach
- August – Bolton Connection walk starting at Eastwood Cemetery, looping through Bolton Flats, and ending at Bolton Orchards

And the next Connecting Communities walk is scheduled for 4/24 in Lunenburg. The flier will be sent soon.

Promotion Update

The Promotion category in the 2016 work plan included:

- Continue to enhance the LTBC web sites and FB page
- Create a quarterly newsletter
- Continue to build our “interest list” and use as a basis for all promotion
- Research new promotion avenues – cable TV, links to other trail web sites, schools
- Consider creation of a trail application for the smart phone

Noreen reported that the first issue of the long-awaited newsletter is just about ready. She hopes to get the spring issue out by mid-April.

The two LTBC web sites and the FB page have been updated with the most recent trail events and a copy of the new Trails Vision Plan.

Funding Update

The Funding category in the 2016 work plan included:

- Establish funding sources for new trail/bikeway development, capital plan
- Apply for grants to support trail development, capital plan

Noreen presented some information on trail and recreation grants that are available at the Federal and State levels, and even in the private sector. It is our goal to start using these grant sources as regular funding for the capital plan.

Maintenance Update

The Maintenance category in the 2016 work plan included:

- Start the Adopt-A-Trail program

Although the AAT program has not been released just yet, Bill Flynn reported that the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River would like to officially adopt the Cook CA and the Pellechia Recreation Area. Their first clean-up date for the year is scheduled for Saturday, 4/9, 9:30 AM to Noon, with the time being split between Cook and Pellechia. New features for the Cook CA are two rest areas with picnic tables. The Pellechia RA will be cleared to allow for more and better parking. Thank you to LFNR for all of their wonderful service.

The Town Forest Committee has scheduled their annual clean-up day at the Town Forest on Saturday, 4/23. Time is TBD.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 6:30 PM, at the Lancaster Town Hall.

Happy Trails!