

**Kennedy Park Committee Meeting June 24, 2021, 8:30 am Lenox Town Hall**

**Present:** Bob Coakley, Ray Kirby, Luke Martin, Ruth Wheeler, Andy Breslin, Sue McNinch, and Tom Roche

**Also:** Bill Gop, DPW and Chris Ketchen, Town Manager. **Absent:** Joe Nolan

**Call to order:** 8:30 am

**Minutes of Oct 10, 2019:** accepted

**Treasurer's Report:** \$12,411.36 Trust, \$661.36 Park Fund, \$5490.00 Overlook.

**Bills paid to Chris Carnevale for tree cutting at Overlook:** \$350, \$129, and \$125

**Trail Maintenance:** The Facebook group Kennedy Park Trail Stewards is working well to alert us to potential issues. As usual Art Stringer has mowed at the Belvedere as well as general water bar maintenance. Ray Kirby has added crushed stone to some places. Several areas have been brushed in to keep the trail tread narrower including the bottom of Red Neck where it joins Under Mt, a trail that has been added without notice from Log Hop to Weaver as well as several other places. Members of NEMBA (New England Mt Bike Association) fixed the gully at the bottom of Hubbard and Wilderness. This has been a problem for a while in the spring with a lot of water running straight down the trail, a trench was dug, and a short section of the trail was re-aligned to connect to Wilderness at a better place. The culvert on the Main trail needs to be either removed or dug out and placed deeper. Ray will look at it. Ray also said he has a new post to reattach a sign at the DPW entrance with the Lenox trail that has rotted.

**Mark Morgenstein complaint:** Mark brought to our attention some illegal trail building on the KP mountain bike trail #4 (KPMB4). A trail camera was placed. An employee of the Arcadian Shop thinks he knows who did it and has told him there is no trail building allowed. NEMBA members will realign this section of trail to make it more sustainable and RW will put up no trail building signs.

**Signage Replacement:** Luke gave RW the last of the trail rating plastic signs that Canyon Ranch bought many years ago and RW will take charge of putting these up under the trail name signs. RW also presented a new version of the welcome to Kennedy Park sign. It was agreed to add no trail building to the sign. The quote for 10 new ones including set up and shipping is \$208.50.

**Overlook Fire Pit Situation:** There have been several instances of vandalism of the Belvedere with charcoal which RW removed. The fire pit is not in keeping with the no fires rule. Ray has removed the fire pit at the Belvedere and planted grass seed.

**Dog waste problem- Bags:** Upon discussion it was agreed to table the idea of placing doggie waste stations. These stations would need to be maintained and probably would not solve the problem of people leaving the bags in the park on the trails.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Cross country skiing grooming experiment: Several Lenox residents approached RW with the idea to groom the main trail in the park. They were concerned that the Covid lock down would prevent the Lenox team from practicing at the school. Gary Miller volunteered to groom using the high school machine. It was an overwhelming success. Although the trails did get roughed up due to some

walkers and dogs by in large people were super excited. A few signs were posted to please walk to the side of the groomed tracks which were removed as soon as it was evident the season had ended. BTW the Lenox team had some great results this winter!

Ray has kept our groomer running over the years and will report next meeting.

**KP Challenge Nov 1 to Nov 16, 2020:** last year during Covid lockdown Patty Spector approached RW with the idea for a social distanced challenge in the park. There were two components to the challenge which was extremely popular. One was a scavenger hunt with the first clue starting at the Arcadian Shop and progressed with 21 clues thru the park ending with a pot of "gold" ie candy at the Belvedere.

The second part of the challenge was to ride, hike, walk all the trails in the park in the shortest distance or fastest time. This led to some interesting statistics about the trail mileage in the park. It was too wet to officially include the Bakers Pond trails and some of the mountain bike trails. The longest distance was approx. 20 miles. Mike Walsh wrote an article in the Berkshire Eagle on Nov 18. The signs that were stapled to trees were immediately removed. Even our Town Manager joined in on the fun and posted 19.5 miles over two days of hiking!

**Social distance signs:** Diane Romeo from the Board of Health posted signs to social distance and wear masks in the park when nearby others park users. The Board had the authority to close the Park but was hoping the signs would inform users to be socially distanced. It worked well and the signs have now been removed.

Next Meeting is Thursday Oct 14,2021 at 8:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

Ruth Wheeler Secretary