Middlesex Trails Committee
Monday August 10, 2026
Minutes - Draft

Attending: Adrienne Magida, Joanne Mankoff, Mitch Osiecki, Sage Romey, Michael Levine

Joanne Mankoff moved and Sage Romey seconded approval of the meeting minutes for June 8, 2026. Motion carried.

Discussion of a draft checklist of things to clarify when working with private landowners - We discussed the checklist (see below) and how it could help facilitate a conversation with landowners interested in inviting public use of their trails. This guide can help the landowner and Trails Committee think about these in advance and be clear about who is taking responsibility for the different tasks..

- Maintenance - what are the landowners responsibilities for maintaining their trails? The committee agrees that the landowners should maintain their trails, but the Committee could help promote trail work days if the landowner wanted that.
- Signage - who foots the bill? MTC can pay for signs if the landowner would like that.
- Activities - Types of use are up to the landowner
- Parking - Where should people park and how would it be marked? Is there year round access to the parking?
- Seasonal - what times of year would the trails be open? The landowner could post signs to close trails during certain parts of the year.
- Designated trails - Are property boundaries marked? Could landowners let neighbors know about the trails and have a conversation about marking boundaries and trails?
- Promotion - Does the landowner want to be on the Town website, announcements on FPF, etc. What are they comfortable with? If a landowner closes a trail, the committee can announce it but it will be up to the landowner to enforce it.

Update on Wrightsville walk and maps/signs - Sara is working with the Wrightsville people on sign design. There need to be wooden signs as they withstand floods much better than the screenprinted signs do. Mitch will post on FPF to see if he can find a woodworker to make the signs.

Trails on east side of Wrightsville - moved to next month's agenda

Update on Loop Trail work - June 21and August 2 - Everything is cleared except the transition spots where there are rocks, water drains and tall things. The last quarter mile needs more work. Hopefully the rest of the work can be completed by late fall. Sage will let people know about some good dates to continue the work.

Update on White Rocks trail day - June 14 - Dave did it by himself but was not at the meeting to report!

Update on Class 4 road policy - it is a work-in-progress at the Select Board They are considering whether a separate Trails Policy is needed. They are also updating the current Town Road ordinance which may include the new Class 4 language..

Email regarding motor bikes - Adrienne received an email about group scooter activity on the Davy Road/Sunnybrook road/trail mostly on the weekends. Legal trails are open to motorized vehicles. Adrienne will email the Select Board to let them know the problem as they are rewriting the Road policy.

Update on Conservation Commission - not available

Joanne suggested the Trails Committee but a McLeod rake to help clear trails. It is a rake on one side and a cutting edge on the other side. We will check into rakes and check with the Conservation Commission.

Mitch had a discussion with Randy from Red Hen about the possibility of improving the Walter Kelly Park as Red Hen opens their new baking facility there. Mitch has a grant to study improving the to build river access there. He will contact Randy about improving the park in the future and sharing information about that possibility. Randy is willing to have his staff volunteer to help with the park.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 14, the second Monday of the month.

Adjourn

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR LANDOWNER DISCUSSION LIST

This is a draft framework for discussing shared expectations between the Middlesex Trails Committee and landowners who would like to partner with the MTC to expand available trails in town.

What is the MTC interested in committing to as a partner? This will help it be clearer in potential conversations with landowners.

> Maintenance: What condition is the trail in now? Does it get maintained at this level or improved? Who does that work?
>
> Signage: Does the landowner want signs? MTC signs or created by landowner? Who puts them up? Who pays for signs?

Activities: What types of use? Horses, walkers, bikes, scooters, 4 wheelers, skiers, snowshoe, ice skating, swimming??

Parking: Where should people park and how would it be marked? Is there year round access to the parking?

Seasonal: Four season? Summer? Winter? Mud? Who closes trails if not open year-round?

Designated or everywhere: Only on marked designated trails? Anywhere on property? Are property boundaries marked?

Liability: Clarify Vt laws regarding liability.

Promotion: Any promotion beyond MTC's usual efforts? What would that involve?