

Notes from 6/28/22 Oak Ridge Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee Meeting

Attendees: Joel Deaton, Bill Bruce, Martha Pittman, Mike Kimel, Stephanie Farrell, Robert ?, Bill Royal

Trailhead kiosk: Installation still not completed

- Mike having ongoing discussion with Jim Grode on map finalization
- Jim knows we want to add trail names and blaze symbols to kiosk map, as well as highlighting trail routes in the blaze colors if he can make that work
- mileage markers: there is 10% error between Jim's distances and Mike's. Jim uses GIS, which may be more precise. We agreed there is no need to update our signage but could align with Jim's distances in the future, if we have another need to replace.

Report from past trail workday:

* Split rail fence installed, scraped trail (esp Beaver Alley)

- scraping still needed to remove some weeds in trail
- also brought in some rock to fill in low spot
- Randy also did some weed trimmer work 3 weeks ago, and more since then, off pepper road

Next Workday:

- need an additional workday to do additional scraping, Cascades maintenance, remove some 'renegade' trails (shortcuts)
 - Saturday, July 16th 9a-12pm
 - garden hoes or loppers
 - Ben Rippe (state MST) and Greg Yahn both complimented trail construction

MST signage grant:

- Got check last week for \$1280.75 to cover cost of signage
- Will invite Bill/Pam Lemons when we open trail and also recognize during July committee report
- Martha will send a thank you note with town seal/logo

Sidepath/Parking Lot Update:

- AT&T repair to underground cable, they will have their contractor come back to fix their work
- They need to order material, same quarry to make sure materials match
- not complicated work, but needs to match
- more to come but they are willing to make it right

Next Construction Phase:

- * Pemberley Estates: Anne walking tomorrow morning, Martha could do Saturday morning, to walk the easement to flag for potential trail construction: Randy will send out email with possible dates.
- * some interesting stone/water features on the potential route
- * Continued easement would connect us from brookbank to Hwy 150
- * nice to focus on east side of OR for our next project
- * Randy and Nancy S have been maintaining the Carriage Cove trail system
- * we do have \$37.5K capital budget approved already for next year (Carriage Cove needs at least one bridge)
- To build this bridge, we would like to use their construction service access to deliver materials

Headwaters to Town Park:

- * maybe we could go ahead and start branding the sidewalks coming into the park?

* ORT logo? MST logo? On the sidewalks through 'downtown'? MST logo would be easier to stencil. No action yet but we will continue discussion.

* Roadway signs: Jim Grode was leading but it stopped; don't know the reason. Joel will follow up.

* Bill Sherrill: Bill Royal to reconnect through George, attempt a second meeting to close the loop.

Meeting needs structure. Marthe referenced American Tobacco Trail developments that all connect to trail.

Year Of the Trail efforts:

* Martha: OR contacted Palmer to ask to participate; not clear what we need to do next to be involved

* Piedmont Legacy Trails + PTRC steering committee meeting monthly, Bill will contact Palmer to see if we can have representation on committee

- Bill B will forward minutes from SC meeting and scheduled dates in case someone else is able to start attending; he has a regular conflict with staff meeting

Reports:

- MST liaison: monthly hikes are only communication from Friends

- Chainsaw class: Joel and Don are getting recertified in December, second class coming up in February if anyone is interested

- Conservation Easement Committee: working to communicate mission, outreach, letter going to group of open space land owners; historic commission also has a list

- T-shirt sales: what inventory remains?

- Community & Outreach:

- no action

- Guided Hikes -

– Sept 24 (Heritage Day) – good opportunity to expose families, kids, to experience

- Sam's "bamboo farm" could be put to use for kids/crafts/walking sticks if we ask?

- could incorporate a headwaters hike into the event

- Facebook page: Don't forget to post little things (beavers in beaver alley, etc.)

- Committee Membership:

- no action