

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Community Connections Committee- CT  
November 16, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

**Introductions:** Paul Mei (Guilford), Clare Cain (CFPA), Ernie Anderson (Madison), Heather Allore (Guilford), Lynn Charest (Simsbury)—not in attendance: Liz Dolphin (Farmington)

**NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update**

• **Subcommittees:**

-The following are the committees created by the TSC: Executive, Advocacy & Outreach, Community Connections, Trail Mntc & Mngmt, & Trail Use

• **MA Trail Stewardship meeting:**

-Hosted by AMC colleagues in Amherst. Very well-attended. Similar subcommittees were defined

-Parallel work, sharing of ideas between committees

• **NPS updates**

-Logo & brochure- NPS in-house graphic designer

-Small grants program to possibly fund initial projects this coming year

-CCS funding (1:1 match)

-Currently working on details of a CFPA/NPS Coop Agreement

-Standardizing Signage: MA DCR guidelines offer a great foundation for moving ahead w/ sign standards for the trail

**Community Connections Committee Work**

• **Review Blueprint for Management: *Community Connections* section**

-ATC Community Gateway Program model also reviewed

• **Brainstorm Ideas for Community Connections**

-Review State POCD, Regional Plans & Town plans for correct NST language and mention.

-Connect w/ area Chambers and network w/ locals, with Newcomer Groups, local Community Funds

-Be linked to Chamber websites, Center Shore Tourism Committee website

-National Trails Day events (June 5, 2010)

-2 reps of CFPA to ea. Town to give presentation on NST in general, benefits of the trail & where it passes thru town specifically

-Promote NST at CT's Legislative Day in Hartford

-100th Anniversary of Scouting (scouts do 100 good deeds)

-Interactive web map- interface to access:

- Area B&B's
- Accessible trail sections
- Motels
- Restaurants
- Parking/Trailhead info
- Gear Shops
- Town/Chamber websites
- Etc

• **Priorities**

1. Review other NST programs for community link ideas (i.e. Ice Age Trail Alliance— <http://iceagetrail.org/>)

2. Review regional, state, and town plans for NST mention (intern)

3. Connect w/ Shoreline Greenway folks
4. Ernie attends Center Shore Tourism Committee
5. Clare connects w/ intern on priorities
6. Clare looks for URL of MMM brochure
7. Connect w/ Trail Managers to identify easy-access/family friendly trail segments
8. Review Chamber websites
9. Create deliverables for Trail Towns

**Other**

• **Who else should join us?**

-town reps

• **Misc.**

-NST newsletter? Heritage connection w/ trails (Simsbury for ex.)

-How do towns benefit? How are they burdened?

Benefits

- Small grants program
- Volunteer created & maintained
- Recreational/Historic tourism
- Recreational resource for community

Burdens

- Safety services
- Maintenance on town property
- Unforeseen costs?

**Next Meeting: Monday December 14th @ 3:00pm at CFPA**

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Community Connections Committee  
December 14, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

- **Committee Work**
  1. Review other NST programs for community link ideas (i.e. Ice Age Trail Alliance— <http://iceagetrail.org/>)
  2. e-Newsletter
  3. NST website page
    - Discussion on an interactive map, should spell out benefits to the town, trail connections, protection of open space & economic benefits
    - Hunting dates should be specified per trail section
  4. Link to websites (chambers, tourism groups, etc): Interest in a pdf brochure to post on partner websites
  5. Review regional, state, and town plans for NST mention (intern)
  6. Center Shore Tourism Committee, Newcomer Groups, local Community Funds, Shoreline Greenway- Preliminary discussions on how to connect w/ these groups.
  7. Trail Survey: Include trail access points question
  8. Create deliverables for Trail Towns-Interactive web map- interface to access:
    - Area B&B's
    - Accessible trail sections
    - Motels
    - Restaurants
    - Parking/Trailhead info
    - Gear Shops
    - Town/Chamber websites
  9. Town presentations on NST: Need to wait until we have deliverables to leave-behind. Maybe start in Simsbury?
  10. Community Hike Series: Interactive hike series—maybe connected w landowner/ town rep hikes
  11. National Trails Day events (June 5, 2010): NTD might dilute the community hike series—keep separate
  12. Other: Local TV spots—“Seasons of the Farmington Valley”. Connect w/ the Farmington Valley Visitor Bureau. Clare & Eric will visit w/ Liz and Frajous in Farmington on interactive mapping. Possibility of a Trail section logbook. RSS feeds are replacing email lists—explore this.
- **Misc.** -How do towns benefit? How are they burdened?

**New England National Scenic Trail  
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February 7<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Meeting Notes**

National Trails Day will be a unique opportunity to highlight the trail—make sure towns know where and when Trails Day events on the NET are scheduled.

We want to advertise that hikers can take the Shoreline East to Guilford to begin their hike.

Ideas for connecting with area businesses:

- Identify places to eat, lodging, gear shops, grocery stores, etc. in each of the 20 towns.
- Identify chamber & tourism contacts in each town
- Might be a way to id trail-friendly businesses: token/ coupon system (?)

Work with Trail Managers to identify kid/family hikes, half-day hikes, & day-long hikes

If each Trail Manager can recommend 2 hikes on their section we can begin compiling hikes that we can package for the weekend hiker.

Interactive google-based map: Clare is working with Wayne Fogg on how we can copy our trail line onto a google map. We will initially show parking areas so hikers can access the trail—this will not substitute our guidebooks. Eventually we hope to have links to area businesses so hikers can develop a longer hike or know where to visit before/after a hike.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 5pm @ CFPA**