

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Landowner/ Trail Protection Committee- CT  
November 2, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

**Introductions**

Janet Brooks, Lynn Charest, Carl Arsenault, Doug & Mary Lou Millet, Francis Pickering, Clare Cain, Eric Hammerling (Doug Pelham not present)

**NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update**

- **Subcommittees:**
  - Executive, Advocacy & Outreach, Community Connections, Trail Mntc & Mngmt, Trail Use
- **MA 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

**Committee Work**

- **Blueprint for Management: *Landowner Issues & Trail Protection* sections**
  - provides guidance of how we might proceed and what we focus on
- **Priorities/Committee Work**
  - Lynn Charest agrees to fill Rep/Committee Chair for the TSC
  - Focus on connecting with land trusts and larger landowners along the Trail's length
  - Review the website for the possibility of creating a landowner page w/ options and info
  - Review the Landowner Options Booklet: offer ideas/edits/improvements for next meeting

-introductory letters were sent to adjacent LO's a few years ago inviting them to info meetings/ more recently invited to the TSC meetings: create follow-up letter??

-letters to towns w/ map of Trail/GIS layer in their area. CFPA intern has begun some of this. Follow-up as needed.

-newsletter will be sent to all trail constituents on NST news: committee will include a landowner section. Website

-J. Brooks will review current CFPA Agreement template/ might be able to simplify the document.

-Possibly host hikes in the landowner's area and send them a special invite. Hikes would be followed w/ more info on how they can preserve their section of trail or potentially host a section of trail. Maybe connect a landowner info meeting w/ another local meeting that already exists.

- **Create committee mission**

-will re-visit at next meeting

- **Who else should join us?**

-Who do we want to reach out to: Town Conservation Commissions, regional planning commissions, town developers, CT Association of Zoning Enforcement officers, town planners & land trust staff

## **Next Meeting**

**Monday, December 7 @ 5pm**

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Trail Use Committee- CT  
November 9, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

**Introductions:** Paul Mei (Guilford), Clare Cain (CFPA), Fred Mastelle (Durham), Jim Caulfield (Boy Scouts), not in attendance- Boone & Ciano

**NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update**

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**Trail Use Committee Work**

- **Review Blueprint for Management: *Trail Use* section**
  - also reviewed CFPA policy on trail use which specifies that the Blue-Blazed Hiking trail system, including the MMM trail, is primarily maintained and used for hiking. The Trail may be used for other uses if the landowner allows.
- **Current Trail Impacts: Motorized & Non-Motorized**
  - Where are the most impacted sections of trail? Need to connect w/ trail managers to identify these areas.
  - Horses and bikes do use sections of the Trail— where are these sections and how do we delineate them from sections that are inappropriate for uses other than hiking?
- **Other Trail Impacts**
  - nothing noted
- **Trail Policies**

- Work w/ DEP to clearly define what uses are allowed on each trail segment on state land.
- What signage can be posted to address allowable trail use.
- Install kiosks so trail users are cognizant of what uses are allowed and trail etiquette is explained.
- **Priorities**
  1. Meet w/ DEP staff to discuss allowable trail use, signage and trailhead verbage that communicates appropriate trail use to the users.
  2. Meet w/ trail managers to identify major motorized impact areas
  3. List large property owners and their allowed use
  4. Disperse info on who should be contacted if illegal trail use has occurred- website, etc.

#### **Other**

- **Who else should join us?**
  - Trail managers, neighbors of the Trail, rep from ea. large corporate landowner
- **Misc**
  - Recommend having quarterly meeting w/ other subcommittee chairs
  - How do we involve the Scouts in trail use issues?

#### **Next Meeting**

**Dec. 14 @ 5:30pm at CFPA**

**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**

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**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

-100<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm at CFPA

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Maintenance & Management Committee- CT  
November 23, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

Introductions: Clare Cain, Paul Mei, Steve Schiller, Bob Nodine, Eric Hammerling (not present: Chuck Sack, Fred Mastele & Peter Dorpalen)

NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update

- Subcommittee Development
- MA meeting
- NPS updates

Maintenance & Management Committee Work

- Review Blueprint for Management: *Trail Maintenance & Management*
- What is currently being done successfully?  
Trail is generally maintained to best practices standard.  
Trail is well-maintained, signed well
- What are the current Trail needs?  
Blazing is good but could be improved in some areas.  
More trailheads & parking.  
Need to identify where there are severe ATV impacts  
Need to identify where horses are currently using the Trail
- Connecting w/ Trail Managers  
Perform a trail survey w/ Trail Managers & Reps to get a clear picture of trail needs. Host a meeting w/ Trail Reps and get them involved.
- Brainstorm Ideas for Committee  
Create an on-line trail map w/ Trailheads  
NPS Highway signs (Rt. 91)
- Priorities  
Trail Survey for Trail Managers & Reps

Other

- CFPA considering purchase of a router for in-house sign production.
- Who else should join us?  
Trail Reps

**\*Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm @ the CFPA office\***

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Landowner/ Trail Protection Committee  
December 7, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

**NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update**

- **NPS updates**  
Executive Committee will be meeting in January – date still to be determined. Siting Council will begin meeting w/ presentation.

**Committee Work**

- **Priorities/Committee Work**
  - Landowner Page on NST Website  
This is top priority for the committee- many ideas generated for page content. Clare will begin drafting and will share draft w/ committee for input.
  - Landowner Options Booklet/Brochure  
Committee will pursue a brochure/booklet once the webpage gets off the ground...and when we can determine a printing budget
  - Hosting an NST/ Land Trust meeting  
Will host this meeting at CFPA w/ area land trust staff invited, along w/ conservation committee members, open space committees, & RPA's. February is desired month for meeting. Agenda to be finalized at next meeting.
  - NST e-Newsletter  
First newsletter will go out this week. It will be an outreach vehicle for the committee as we move forward. Possibly link to other on-line newsletters
  - Landowner Hike Series  
Invitation postcard will be sent out. May, June, October Landowner Appreciation Hikes w/ post-hike event.
- **Other**
  - CFPA intern  
Update on intern's progress

**Next Meeting:**

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm @ CFPA**

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

- **NPS updates**
- **Committee Work**
  - Review other NST programs for community link ideas (i.e. Ice Age Trail Alliance— <http://iceagetrail.org/>)
  - e-Newsletter
  - 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
  - Link to websites (chambers, tourism groups, etc)
    - Interest in a pdf brochure to post on partner websites
  - Review regional, state, and town plans for NST mention (intern)
  - Center Shore Tourism Committee, Newcomer Groups, local Community Funds, Shoreline Greenway
    - Preliminary discussions on how to connect w/ these groups.
  - Trail Survey
    - Include trail access points question
  - Create deliverables for Trail Towns-Interactive web map- interface to access:


▪ Area B&B's	▪ Parking/
▪ Accessible trail sections	Trailhead info
▪ Motels	▪ Gear Shops
▪ Restaurants	▪ Town/Chamber websites
  - Town presentations on NST
    - Need to wait until we have deliverables to leave-behind. Maybe start in Simsbury?
  - Community Hike Series
    - Interactive hike series—maybe connected w/ landowner/ town rep hikes
  - National Trails Day events (June 5, 2010)
    - NTD might dilute the community hike series—keep separate
  - 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.

**Next Meeting: Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 @ CFPA**

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Maintenance & Management Committee- CT  
January 6, 2010  
Agenda**

Present: Nodine, Mei, Perrines', Sack, Mastelle, Schiller, Dorpalen

**1. Trail Survey**

Reviewed a first draft of the trail survey being prepared for CT Trail Managers along the NST. Committee reviewed and made improvements to questions and inventory aspects of the survey. Cain will update survey and circulate when complete.

**New England National Scenic Trail  
Landowner/ Trail Protection Committee  
January 11, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

Present: Charest, Cain, Brooks, Pelham, Arsenault, Mei

**Landowner Page for NST Website**

Reviewed and shared ideas for landowner page content & layout. Clare will circulate for further discussion. Final draft of landowner page for next meeting to share w/ MA.

**NST/ Land Trust meeting**

Committee decided to host 2 meetings: one geared toward land trusts and one geared toward municipal staff and larger landowners.

**Meeting Dates:** March 9, 2010: Municipal Meeting (10:00a-12:00p)  
March 15, 2010: Land Trust Meeting (6:30p-8:30p)

**Municipal Meeting Notes:** invite town planners, chairmen of land use boards, zoning enforcement officers, parks & rec staff, other.

Possible topics: updating landowner database, subdivision regulations, review map of current trail protection, trails & economic development, Yale intern report, grants available thru the NST designation, other

**Land Trust Notes:** invite land trust staff/volunteers adjacent to trail corridor, other

Possible topics: what landowner agreement options exist for the NST, how do we share resources & information about potential land protection adjacent to the trail, sharing our GIS trail line w/ land trusts, who should hold a trail easement, testimonials of private landowners w/ trails on their property, other

**Other**

-CFPA intern  
Update on intern's progress

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 8th<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm @ CFPA**