

Environmental Corridor and Open Space Committee Minutes

Thursday 9/16/2021

The meeting was called to order by Jim Muenzenberger, Committee Chair

Attendees: Jim Muenzenberger, Dave Felkner, Chip Schneeberger, Mike Meyers, Linda Hallquist, and Dave Van Thiel

1. The minutes of the 8/19/2021 meeting were approved.
2. Dave Van Thiel volunteered to serve as acting secretary for the meeting.
3. Discussion related to Penbrook Nature Path progress and future schedule.
 - a. The group discussed the significant progress made since the last ECOS meeting. Dave VT was able to use a brush cutter to shorten the new growth of buckthorn around the trail system. Jim M followed up by spraying the mowed areas with an approved environmentally friendly treatment. The south end of the path was covered with woodchips trucked in by DPW staff which were subsequently spread by Chip S using a rented Bobcat. Jim and Lynn M then followed up by raking in the chips and further grooming the path. Additionally, DPW staff improved the approaches to the trail off the paved path and graded select steep areas to help make the trail more user friendly. One steep area will be reevaluated over time as the trail gets more use. The group discussed the potential to use community volunteers to open up vistas and perform other path maintenance. The group spent time discussing how communication of activity can be improved to ensure coordination of work and consensus on intended outcomes.
4. Discussion and actions related to maps and signage.
 - a. A 'no trespassing' sign has been strategically placed to discourage hikers from straying from the designated path. The trail map and related information has been provided to Kelly Y for inclusion in the Hartland recreation guide. The committee discussed and recommended that three signs be purchased for the main trailheads. The signs would identify the Penbrook Nature Path and could include a trail map with "you are here" markings. Mike M suggested a video could be produced to highlight the trail and its main features. The video could be posted on the village Facebook page, in the library, and in other social media outlets.
5. Discussion and actions related to future initiatives and the ECOS Committee budget.
 - a. The group anticipates a budget of \$8,000 for 2022, the same amount allocated for this calendar year. As of today, \$3,141 remains in the 2021 budget although some disbursements are in process. The proposed signage would be purchased using 2021 funds.

6. Update on IATA white trail loop initiative.
 - a. The Ice Age Trail Alliance appears to be in favor of designating the Penbrook Nature Path as a white loop once trail construction is complete. The outside loop covering the north and south portions of the trail would be marked with the white blazes used by the IAT, likely to include trailhead posts and other typical IAT markers. Dave VT will check with IAT staff to determine the types of signage used so the ECOS committee can match that style.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.