Town of Hartford

RR Bed Workshop 7/23/22

Approved Minutes

Selectboard members were all present

38 in attendance

Cathy started the meeting at 9:34 am.

A Representative from the Canton Snowmobile Club spoke on how it brush hogs the trail every 2-3 years.

He also mentioned that they were very pleased with the bigger rocks Bim/Jeremy put in for drainage.

Primary water issue caused by Beavers.

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A man that lives on the RR Bed said that he sees a lot of snowmobile traffic but not a lot of ATV/UTV traffic. A few dirt bikes.

He drags part of the RR Bed to keep it smoother.

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Discussion about Beaver concerns and bridge needing repairs. Selectboard told attendees that a bridge had been given to BIM from State.

The plan is to replace the old bridge with the bridge the State took out. Selectboard shared information that Bim will be working with Jeremy Johnson to get bridge installed.

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A woman (Roxanne) said that the road does not have to be fancy. Just useable. Most everyone agreed. Roxanne lives on connecting road and is concerned that if RR Bed were gated, that people would use her road. Their family maintains their road and does not mind that others access RR Bed through them but increased traffic (due to a gate or closure) would not be good for their road.

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Ramsey reviewed the 2019 plans for upgrades that she and BIM talked about. The Rec Committee has 10k to put towards the RR Bed trail.

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There was continued discussion from residents that the RR Bed should not be gated. Selectboard said that there was no plan for a gate, but the RR Bed might need to be temporarily closed for a couple of weeks during the mud season, so as not to ruin the work/improvements we plan on doing.

All in the meeting agreed that would be OK.

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Other discussion about Beaver Deceivers to stop the beavers from building a dam next to the new bridge to lower the water level at the dam by the pond outlet.

Lee said that a beaver and wetlands specialist inspected the pond and recommended a “beaver deceiver” for $1200, installed, to lower the water level.

Some residents agreed that they would volunteer to install one.. Canton Snowmobile Club Rep said that they do work, but can be pricey. Lee thought they "were" around 2,000 a few years ago, before Covid. Further research would be done by the Selectboard.

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Final recommendations were

1. Bridge needs to be replaced (Bim will do with Jeremy's help)

2. Larger stone base will be added for good drainage then gravel will be added on top

3. RR Bed needs to be graded (Bim said he would do this) which will bring the old gravel on the sides back up on the trail. Funds will come from Rec Committee

4. No Gate

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Meeting ended at 10:32 am

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date