

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 5th , 2023

Attendees: Jeff Hannigan, Greg Andruskevich, Paula Lochhead, Pamela Anderson, Dick Gillespie, Laura Santer, Steve Kenney, Bryan Conant

Guests: **N/A**

Call to Order – 7:03 PM

Approval of May Meeting Minutes – Motion (Jeff) Seconded (Steve); Approved

Parks Dept Topics:

- Working on procuring estimates for an internal cleaning of the gatehouse
- Maintenance required on the bathroom/snack building in the fields (roof, hot water). Looking into converting the unused Snack Shack portion to some kind of storage
- Clarified a concern raised by a park visitor over a unsightly homeless camp; location being across the river along the parkway and outside of the park (and hence not a candidate for a park-led cleanup). This same location has been cleaned in the past but through hired professionals to account for health hazards

Committee Topics

- Cove Trail status
 - Early season cleanup of remaining debris in the cleared section near the stairs was a success, but:
 - One of the stairs has rotted through to the point it has been pulled free and discarded to the side of the trail
 - The seasonal growth is so thick the trail is essentially impassible
 - Committee motioned and approved for the Parks Dept to put a Trail Closure sign at either end of the trail in lieu of attempting to both clear all the growth and replace the stairs this seasonal
 - Deliberations remain whether that effort is achievable and sustainable to recover the trail to full use
- Tree Management
 - Continuation of a discussion on how down trees are managed
 - With the new context of a few recent fires in the park-led
 - Along with observations from committee member Steve on the amount of downfall present in the woods
 - And with respect to prior discussions on how trees in the canal should be handled
 - Committee motioned and approved a request for the Parks Dept to seek out some Forestry expertise from city, county, or state level to provide an opinion with relation to:
 - The amount of deadfall in the woods
 - Our current practices for clearing trees that block trails
 - Recommended practices for trees in the canal
- May Trail Day reports

- Knotweed continuation was a success with remaining problem areas limited to the very boundary of the covered surface where it abuts other structure like the Park sign
- Erosion mitigation on the Red trail was a success with 10+ buckets of material placed and compacted, along with a small retaining wall
- Also achieved a minor clean-up of the Triangle courtesy of Gene
- Gatehouse has a good number of visitors
- June Trail Day projects
 - Laura to lead a painting effort for the Cover overlooks
 - Paula to lead a painting effort for the fences/railings around the gatehouse
 - Dick to lead an effort to fully remove the stairs on the Cove trail as part of the closure
 - Jeff to lead an effort full both a full clean and excavation of the triangle drainage
 - Stretch goal, subject committee lead attendance, for some cleanup of the gatehouse parking lot focusing on materials that have built up from being pulled from the dam
 - Expecting at least two volunteer groups to attend with advanced notice
- Green 65 Erosion Repairs
 - Committee is recognizing a need to repair some erosion on the non-canal side of the Green trail where the canal meets the mill pond
 - However, we expect it to require some additional infrastructure support beyond our normal wood and gravel
 - Hence, requesting Parks dept engage the city engineer or other resources for opinions on a solution

Adjournment – 8:17 PM