

TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
White Pond Site Visit
May 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Bob White (chair, scribe), Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Director), Will Holden (Land Manager), David Clarke, Bill Kemeza, Jonathan “Jay” Keyes, Ken Miller

Members absent: Spencer Borden and Carlene Hempel

Visitors: Josh Galper (White Pond Advisory Committee co-chair), Ellen Glendon (Old Pickard Farms Trust II Trustee), Marya Piasecki, Jane Prentiss

The meeting began at 10:10 a.m.

Background:

The DOT 100% design for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail includes a timber rail fence along the east side of the trail between the trail and White Pond Reservation that leaves a 5-foot gap for access to Town trails at the White Pond Reservation. Subsequently WPAC voted to have no gap in the fence to prevent BFRT users from gaining access to the pond, citing degradation of water quality from such contact. The issue of whether to have access blocked or allowed was discussed without a conclusion at the April 26 Trails Committee Meeting. This site visit by the Committee was held to gain insight into the issue.

Minutes:

Delia Kaye led the meeting by identifying the location of the proposed fence ending to leave a 5-foot opening to access Town trails. The suggested modification of the plan was to do away with the gap, where shown on the DOT plan, instead of terminating the fence five feet from the beginning of the existing rise of an embankment a short distance away in a southerly direction. This location aligns with an existing trail into White Pond Reservation adjacent to Old Pickard Farms Trust II (OPFTII) property. The trail would be relocated as needed to keep it on state property associated with the BFRT to a point where it would enter White Pond Reservation town property, or, alternatively pass through OPFT II property for a short distance with permission of the owners.

Ellen Glendon expressed the desire of the OPFT II members (aka Stone Root Lane Association) that the opening to White Pond Reservation be as small as possible. Josh Galper echoed this request. She will get back to the Trustees with the proposed location of the 5-foot access and will provide their feedback.

Discussion followed regarding details of access control by posting signage listing prohibitions of White Pond Reservation usage including no swimming and no bicycle riding. A bicycle rack would be made available for users who wished to secure bikes while walking the trails.

Minutes submitted by Bob White.

