

2.2.7. Policy Establishing a Reading Trails Committee (RTC)

Based on the recommendation of the Northern Area Greenway Committee, there is hereby established a five (5) member Reading Trail Committee (RTC) which will assume the responsibilities of planning, developing, and maintaining present and future trails in the Town of Reading. The goal is for the Town to create and maintain a connected, well coordinated system of trails to serve the residents of the community. The RTC will undertake the following responsibilities.

- ◆ Make recommendations to the Conservation Commission, Town Forest Committee, and Recreation Committee regarding development, operation, use, and maintenance of trails crossing lands under the jurisdiction of these bodies. The RTC shall have no rule-making authority itself.
- ◆ Act as a liaison between the Town of Reading and the Reading Open Land Trust, Friends of Reading Recreation, Walkable Reading, Scout groups, and other youth and community groups with respect to development, operation, use, and maintenance of trails.
- ◆ Coordinate and manage an Adopt-a-Trail program, if appropriate, for the maintenance of trails or portions there-of.
- ◆ Set trail construction, maintenance, use, accessibility, and signage standards.
- ◆ Oversee production of trail maps and guides.
- ◆ Provide advice and recommendations on the development of the Ipswich River Greenway and other trail initiatives arising from Town reports and studies.
- ◆ Approve volunteer trail projects before the volunteers seek approval for projects from the Conservation Commission, Town Forest Committee, or other Town or other cooperating organizations.
- ◆ Organize training, hikes, trail maintenance days, and trail construction projects.
- ◆ Foster working relationships with DPW, Police, Fire, Schools, or other agencies to carry out the mission of the RTC.
- ◆ Encourage cooperation and address problems and conflicts in trail areas.
- ◆ Identify grant opportunities to support trail initiatives.
- ◆ Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, and other bodies of the Town on measures necessary and appropriate to implement the trails program.

The Committee will be made up of five (5) members appointed for 3 year terms, so appointed that as even a number of terms shall expire in each year. Associate members may also be appointed. In selecting the Committee membership of 5 members, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint all members and shall give consideration to members representing the following interests within the community:

- Recommendation of the Conservation Commission;
- Recommendation of the Town Forest Committee;
- Recommendation of the Recreation Committee;
- one or more residents of the community who do not represent the above groups, and who has expertise in, conservation, environmental affairs, trails operation and maintenance, or other areas of expertise which, in the opinion of the Board would be helpful in meeting the Committee's mission.

Subcommittees may be created by a vote of the Committee. Members of Subcommittee members do not necessarily have to be members of the Committee.

This Committee shall administratively fall within the Department of Community Services. Staff as available will be assigned by the Town Manager to work with the Committee.

This Committee shall sunset on June 30, 2013 unless renewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted 3-25-08