

EMTI minutes 6-7-05

Present: Nona, Carroll, Sandy, Jamie, Rick, Jase Roberts (MAMBA), Karl Etnier (Sparrow Farm trail landowner), Mary

Minutes of March 22/05 approved

Treasurer's report none except that I will note that checks were paid out to Mary (\$20), and Nona (\$25) for Chris Abrams gift, and to Kevin (\$50) for expenses for the grant proposal

Pratt: YCC is scheduled to do bridge work in Aug. paid for by grant funds. There is a snag on the O'Hare entrance route (Dodge Rd). The proposed route overlooks their hot tub! Nona suggests we wait til fall to work out another route or figure out a screening solution.

Sparrow Farm trail: Geoff Beyer approached Jamie about connecting from Montpelier to our trail. He is creating a designated bike trail and wants to know if we are willing to let it connect to our existing trail. This would mean that we would officially open our trail to bike traffic. A little history: when the trail first opened, bikes were not allowed since the bike traffic would have to dead end at the Montpelier line where Geoff maintained a strict a no bike policy. His decision to limit use to pedestrian use was based on his belief that most users were looking for a quiet experience which would be compromised by the higher use and speed of bikers. Over time the East Montpelier section saw more bike traffic, which became a "don't ask/don't tell" situation. For the past 2 seasons we have unofficially opened the trail to bike traffic by supporting the trail work by volunteers from MAMBA.

Jamie read a letter from his wife and our treasurer, Kim, in which she made a passionate plea for returning to a no bike policy. She described a desire for a safe carefree place to enjoy the woods with small children and pets without the startling interruptions of mountain bikers appearing at higher speeds, possibly out of control at steep sections, without warning.

Jase spoke in support of bike use with the belief that pedestrian and bike use can be compatible. There may be some possibility of widening the trail or creating an alternate route on the steeper sections to avoid unexpected encounters.

Karl and Diana are both happy to keep the trail open to bikes, but are concerned by potential erosion of the trail.

Much discussion of the various pros and cons of bike use led to a review of the EMTI mission statement which states: "...to create and maintain a mix of trails which satisfies both landowner's desires and community needs...". The landowners are willing, but there are some conflicting opinions as to what the community wishes are.

Motion was made and seconded to allow bike use on the Sparrow Farm Trail.

Vote: Aye 5 Nay 1 Ayes have it and our trail is open to bike use.

Not much time left for Eric's report on CVT progress-but he has YCC crew ready to go to work on the F&W section of the Rt trail.

Next meeting: Tues July 12 at 7 pm at Mary's

