

**Air Line Trail Steering Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022
Portland Library, Mary Flood Room**

Present: Steve Byrne, Chantal Foster, Lou Pear, Rosario Rizzo, Rick Sharr, Carol Winiski;

Absent: Tom Ladny; Alternates Carol Bozena, Bill Flood

Public: Jay Asikainen, Steve Crusberg, Linda Dutcher, Bob Sequenzia,

1. **Chairman Call Meeting to Order** – Rosario Rizzo called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. **Roll Call/Seating of Alternates** – Introductions made for all present, including Public; no Alternates seated.
3. **Agenda Accepted** – There was a motion by Steve Byrne seconded by Rick Sharr to accept the agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
4. **Accept Meeting Minutes** – There was a motion by Lou Pear, seconded by Carol Winiski to accept the Meeting Minutes from the December 1, 2021 Special Meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
5. **Public Comment** – None.
6. **Old Business** – None.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Committee Update** – New commission members Rick Sharr and Lou Pear were welcomed. Riz anticipates an Alternate slot will become available as Bill Flood has indicated he can no longer attend meetings due to a revised work schedule; he plans to resign. Both Jay A. and Bob S. are interested in joining the committee. There was a motion by Riz, seconded by Chantal to nominate Lou Pear as committee co-chair. Vote unanimous, motion carried. There was a motion made by Carol Winiski, seconded by Lou Pear to create a Maintenance Committee with Bob Sequenzia as chair. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Discussion about maintenance assistance. Bob Shea's team does a great job of maintaining the trail, however some spots requiring trimming get a little out of control during the growing season. Can we get equipment there to do some mowing in between the Town activity? Carol W. offered assistance if she can get transportation for her mower. Bob S. said he could help with that and other things.
 - b. **Flower Pollinators** – Amy Jahnke from the Portland River Valley Garden Club is interested in starting a pollinator garden along the trail. Riz has spoken with her and said we are willing to work with her group on determining a location where they can start their project.
 - c. **“Celebrate Trails Day” (April 23) vs. CT Trails Day (June 4/5)** – Discussion on whether to participate in the national “Celebrate Trails Day” or the CT Trails Day as we have in the past. Motion to participate in the national “Celebrate Trails Day” in 2022 made by Lou Pear, seconded by Rick Sharr. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Check out the link: <https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/celebrate-trails/>
 - d. **Meeting with BOS** – Riz and Lou will schedule a meeting with Ryan Curley after which they will request to update the BOS with ALT information.
 - e. **Maintenance Racks** – New stakes have been observed around the existing racks. Tom not present to explain the new activity.
 - f. **Public Works Support** – Riz and the entire committee are very appreciative of the good work being done by Bob Shea's team – repairing the parking area on MHR was greatly appreciated, one of many labors attended to. Thank you!

- g. Other New Business** – Riz took it upon himself to update various signs on the kiosks – updated list of commission members, town businesses, etc. Thanks, Riz!
8. **General Discussion/Communications/Correspondence** – Lou explained the census project and enlisted assistance from committee members to perform one-hour surveys. Carol W., Steve B. and Rick Sharr volunteered. Carol W. inquired about the situation with the depot – Riz reported there has been no change. Carol also inquired about the troublesome wet spot in East Hampton and that appears to be on hold at this time. Previously there was thought to be a deal to move forward, but apparently, that is not happening right now.
9. **Adjournment Meeting** – There was a motion by Lou Pear, seconded by Carol W. to adjourn the regular meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Our next meeting is a Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, **February 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm**, Portland Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Foster
Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chantal Foster', written in dark ink on a white background.