

**MINUTES**  
**Phillips Revitalization Steering Committee Meeting**  
**July 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Margaret Cosenza, Matt Sharp, Dick & Pam Matthews (Absent: John Stinchfield, Dick Stovall, Nancy O'Toole)

Invited Guests: Ben Godsoe

**Ben Godsoe from the High Peaks Alliance** came to give us an update on the FlyRod Crosby Trail that they plan to put through town. The trail, often following existing railroad beds or multi-use trails, will have trailheads in Phillips, Madrid, Strong, Sandy River Plantation, and Rangeley. The first phase of 15 miles, from Phillips to Saddleback, should be completed this Fall.

Ben detailed their vision for the town of Phillips, with a series of 4 or 5 signs with photos of the area as it was 100 years ago during the lifetime of FlyRod Crosby. Signs would be posted at the following places: the P.A.C.C., which could be the trailhead on Depot Street, running up to Pleasant Street with a sign in front of the Historical Society, going across the bridge with a sign in the Park by the Bridge, continuing down Amble Street with a sign there, and ending at Sanders Railroad Station with a sign. The trail itself would continue down Bridge Street and go into the woods after crossing Rt. 142.

Dick and Pam, who are members of the PAAC board, agreed to bring up the matter of establishing the trailhead at the old gym at the next PAAC meeting.

High Peaks Alliance is in the process of talking with the groups affected by this trail and asking for permissions. They are also attempting to secure funding for the project. Those present at the meeting encouraged the sign project and its connections to Phillips.

**Events:** We spoke about our need to pass events along to other entities, as running events is not one of our directives. We will encourage and support events that help the town. Pam will ask the P.A.C.C. if they are willing to sponsor the Rail Fair in October.

**Grants:** Nancy O'Toole handed in her resignation to selectmen at their last meeting. She is resigning from all town committees, as she is moving to another state. Our committee will miss her expertise. Dick M. has been starting the work on gaining Historic Register status for some of our buildings. He has also been starting on tasks for the Community Development Block Grant. We missed the deadline for this year's grant, but we want to be ready for next year. It was suggested that since this grant will be applied for by the town that we might get help from the town manager in making application for it. Dick and the committee will work with the town manager to explore the best method for making the application.

**Planning:** Dick M. reported that there was a Planning Committee meeting on July 11. The committee spoke about sidewalks and fixing the road up to Daggett Rock. Our

committee will let Dick Stovall (Planning Chair) know that sidewalks might be handled by the town and the new town manager, with help from Revitalization. Wheeler Road is being worked on by the town, but the road up to Daggett Rock is privately owned. Steering asks Planning to check into ownership (the Historical Society?) to see if the owner wants our help.

**Branding:** There has not been a committee meeting in some time. They need some direction from the Steering Committee.

**Business:**

The selectmen have discussed with the town manager, Elaine, about setting up a meeting between the Selectboard, the Revitalization Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce. If the Chamber and Revitalization could each help the other by cooperating on economic projects, we might have a more active organization that can help foster more effective economic development of the town.

Margaret plans to meet with Cindy Dixon from the Micro-Loan Committee towards the end of the summer. Our meeting with the Chamber might help us solidify our plan for a Business Day event.

Tom Saviello has offered to set up a meeting with someone from the Department of Economic Development. They are in the process of hiring someone to cover this area, but once that person is in place, Tom will help us set that up.

The Townspeople voted to give us \$1000. in the Town Meeting, which may be used for operating expenses and funding future community projects, and will be administered through the town office between Elaine and Pam. Elaine has offered to print the *Vitalizer* for us on the office copier and will shift the funds from our account to cover printing costs. Pam has purchased paper, which she will give to Elaine and be reimbursed through our account.

**General Discussion:**

We need more people to become involved. We can start to implement, more than actually run events, but we still need people to help with the planning and implementation. Think about people to invite to join us. We'll be discussing this more in future.

**Our next meeting will be with the Selectmen and the Chamber of Commerce. Date to be announced.**

*All meetings of the Revitalization Committees are open to anyone interested in attending. New members are always welcome. To get on our mailing list, please contact Pam or Dick Matthews at 639-2630.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Matthews