

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 8, 2022
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Dave Gelo, Jason Michael and Mike Savenelli Sr.

Recreation Commission Members Absent:

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

Public Question & Answer Period - None

Special Guests: None

Opening Remarks: Chairperson Jason Michael called the meeting to order @ 8:10 a.m.

Minutes:

Approval of Minutes from May 11th meeting

Public Question/Answer Period:

Agenda Items:

1. Advertising signs in parks, revisit for update

Jason: He had contact with Planning and Zoning and a letter will be submitted by end of this week because they are having their meeting on Monday and they will have this brought up as a discussion item or they will take a vote on a meeting or workshop.

2. Community Lake seasonal clearing schedule update

Kenny said this has to wait until next fiscal year, facility money is used for this not general fund money. The bid will go out end of June. The bid has to go out for 10 days and then the clearing can be done around mid-July. Second clearing will be done around November 1.

3. Pickle Ball @ Harrison Park update

Jason asked about the line striping in the parking lot. Kenny said that Public Works has separate budget for line striping. Jason asked if there is a surface warrantee for the pickle ball courts and also if there is a warrantee on Doolittle courts. Kenny will find out what the warrantee is for those.

4. Wharton Brook @ Doolittle (shoreline clearing) update

Mike suggested to invite Rob to the next Rec Commission meeting in August. Kenny will send a letter to Rob to invite him to the August 10th meeting. Kendrick Park needs to be filled with mulch, and Doolittle also.

5. Lufbery reconfiguration, revisit for update

Kenny will ask Engineering for a map of Lufbery Park. The Commission will go to Lufbery on Tuesday, June 14 at 11 a.m. Kenny will talk to Engineering today for a map.

6. Community garden shed plan update

Michelle Bjorkman is working on this.

7. Legacy Garden update

Kenny suggested that Nolan's deliver the monuments and Public Works can work around them. Jason suggested that the bush on the island get pulled out and replace with a weeping Cherry tree which is low maintenance.

Mike and Dave offered to go to the Legacy Gardens and clear space so monuments can be delivered. Kenny will go and purchase supplies and deliver it to the gardens. Mike and Dave agreed to go today to look at the area.

8. Open Discussion: (2/3 votes required to discuss items) – Motion by Mike All in favor for open discussion.

The Commission is still in need of two more Commission members. A group of parents met at Doolittle Park this past Saturday with concerns of the park. The Commission has concerns about the back building at Doolittle regarding knocking it down. Kenny will contact Mayor in writing to have the Commission have an opportunity to work on a plan for the space where the building is located. An agenda item will be added to the August meeting to have the opportunity to work on a plan for the space.

Mike asked what the role of the Commission is for the 350+ celebration. The Park & Rec is sponsoring Simon Sez on June 24 and also in charge of the fireworks.

Dave: There are WWI plaques at Harrison parks located on trees. Dave is concerned that the plaques can not be read, due to age. Dave wants to come up with a plan to maybe create a mapping plaque. Instead of having the plaque on the tree, the trees can have a number assigned to them. Mike suggested to contact the Veterans Affairs office at the town hall to see if they have any suggestions.

Kenny: He sent out a survey to area towns to see if they received ARPA money, and if they did, what it was spent on. He received around 13 responses. (See Attached document)

Kenny said that he was named the Trails Administrator by the Mayor for Tyler Mill. If anything wants to be done to a trail, it needs to be sent to Kenny's office. He will review it and pass it along to other people that need to review it. He will either accept or deny request. He received two proposals already. One for Boy Scout Trail (See Attached document) and one for the Green Bridge Project (See Attached document).

9. Director's Report: Kenny Michaels

(See attached document)

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday August 10, 2022 @ 8:00 AM –

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:40 a.m. motion by Jason Michael seconded by Mike Savenelli

Respectfully submitted,

Loriann Ouellette, Senior Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation

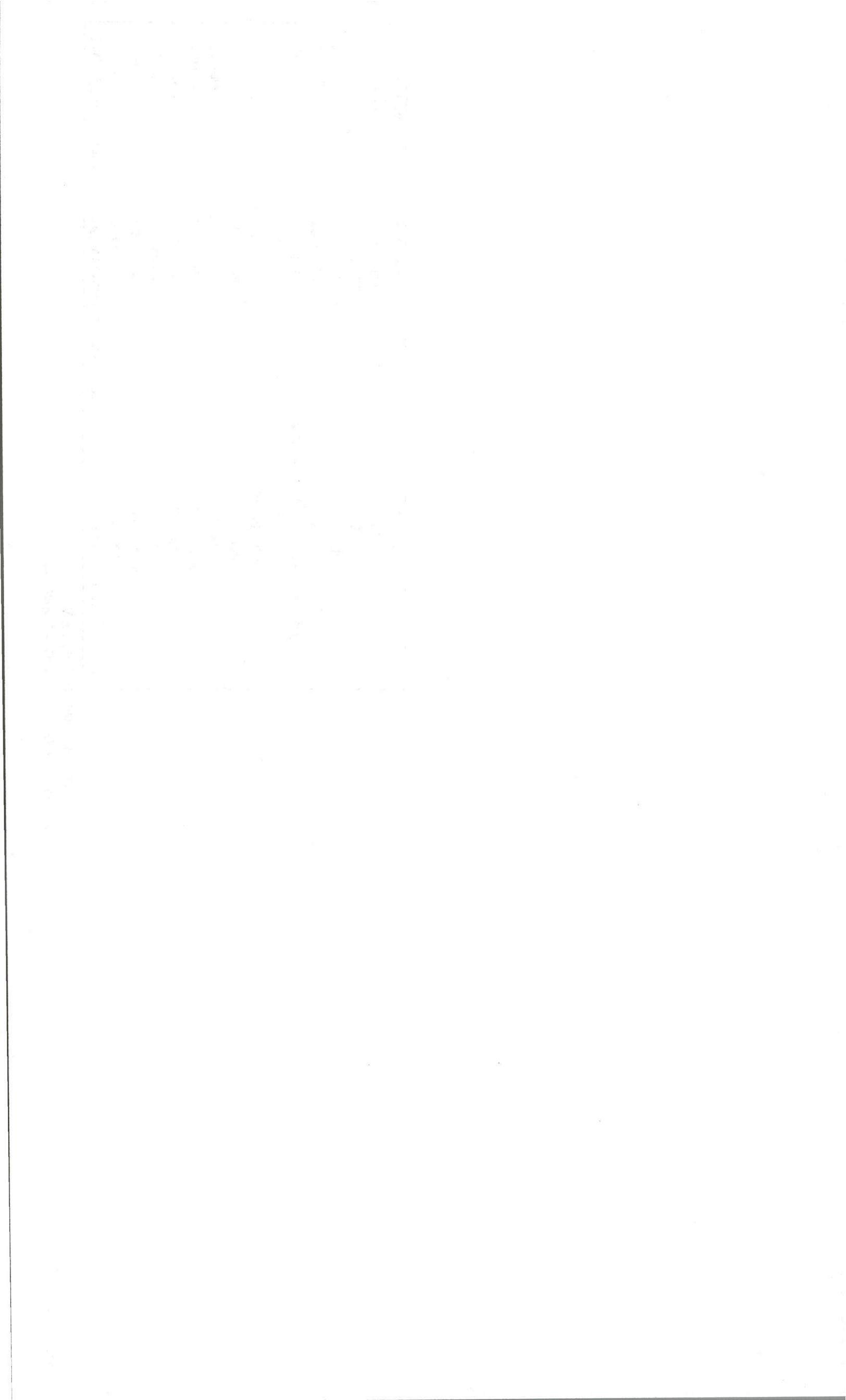
Director's Report
Recreation Commission Meeting
June 8, 2022

1. Parks and Recreation Department building not operating on summer hours for the weekend Saturdays open until 12pm and Sunday closed. These hours are in affect until Labor Day.
2. Over next month, Gateway Fencing will be doing fencing repairs at Keller Fields 1-5 to repair curling fence mesh on ball fields, replacing outfield fencing on field 2, replace the posts on the top of the batting cages. **UPDATE*** Gateway has completed all of the fence repairs deemed safety issues at Keller Fields 1-5 totaling \$12,882. Work completed: New Outfield fence mesh field two, left field to center. New fence mesh behind home plate in first base and third base bull pens field 2. New outfield fence mesh left field to center field on field 3, new mesh on back side of batting cage behind field 2, new top posts and reattached fence mesh roof of batting cages by field 1, new fence mesh behind home plate in bull pens on field 1 and new gate installed on third base dugout of field 5.**
3. Pickle Ball courts are complete. Hinding Tennis does need to return and fix center strap anchors as they are becoming loose. Tom Hinding said they will be out to pour footings for the anchors. Awaiting installation of new signs for the pickleball courts, similar to the signage at Doolittle designating the courts for pickle ball play only.
4. Summer Staff Orientation is the week of June 20th. Playgrounds, Tiny Bubbles and Pop Shots beginning on June 27th and Summer Sizzlers beginning July 5th.
5. Department currently working on filling (2) Part Time Facility Maintainer Positions with interviews to begin withing the next two weeks.
6. Doolittle Park Security Camera bid specs are posted. Bid walk through is May 19, with bid opening on May 26. **UPDATE: Bid has been stopped and will be re-bid. Had to revisit site for power to the park with Wallingford Electric Division and multiple questions by a couple of vendors, made it easier to get all info into a new bid. Most likely out after July 1.**
7. Joe Robles from the Tyler Mill users group has submitted a proposal at Tyler Mill to:
 - A. Add the Boy Scout Trail to the Authorized Trail List withing the Tyler Mill Trail System
 - B. Build (2) natural cedar bridges as sign of good faith and donation to Tyler Mill saving Environmental Planning \$7200 to construct these passages.

Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association
 ARPA Funding Survey Results

April 2022

Town /City	Amount of ARPA Funds Received	Amount Recreation Department Received
Branford	\$8.2 million	\$200,000
Bristol	\$28 million	\$1.275 million
Canton	\$3 million	\$315,000
Cheshire	\$8 million	\$2 million
Colchester	\$4.5 million	Anticipated \$800,000
Darien	\$6.4 million	\$1.1 million
East Lyme	\$5.4 million	\$450,000
Fairfield	\$24.565 million	\$1.255 million
Guilford	\$6.5 million	\$1.5 million
Meriden	\$36 million	\$2.85 million (Pending Request \$800K)
Newington	\$9 million	\$55,000
Newtown	\$7.674,294 million	\$365,000
Oxford	\$4.9 million	\$0
Wallingford	\$13.2 million	\$0
West Hartford	\$25 million	\$882,000



Projects Funding is being used for

Showmobile Stage

improve amenities at pine lake park, planning and design improvements kern park, pre-fabricated restroom and ada improvements, trail improvements, ADA , playground and para fitness upgrades

Pool Shell Repair, splash pad, playground, outdoor fitness equipment

Council determined to use \$2m towards reducing the cost of Bartlem South Master Plan of a \$14.8m project

Rebuild tennis courts, replace playground, build pickleball courts, Strategic Plan, irrigation on 7 athletic fields

replacing 3 playgrounds, replacing 5 park water fountains, installing 1 additional paddle tennis court, replacing 10 park benches

Playscape improvement, replace water fountains at parks, restroom enhancements at parks, open space master plan

1 beach concession upgrade, 5 playground replacements, golf course maintenance equipment

nd septic system at beach, reconstruction of tennis courts, construction of basketball courts, replacing 2 playscapes, improve a park bathroom facility, improve drainage on athletic field, expand disk golf course, replac

\$2.25 million for basketball & tennis court resurfacing & new pickleball courts, \$600K for summer camp tuition reimbursement, Pending request for 4 splashpads (\$800K)

Concerts, purchase of shade structures, youth lacrosse, soccer and little league supplemental funding

New Dump Truck, Park Pavilion Refurbishment, disc golf course, bicycle playground

No plan or decision has been made

Council discussed appropriating money towards \$7 million dollar pool project. P&R /WPD looking to use ARPA funds for surveillance cameras in Doolittle Park

\$260,000 Accessibility Improvements, \$245k pond restoration, \$226k Park & Playground Enhancements, \$100k Equipment Upgrades Indoor Rink, \$51k Additional funds for renovation of tennis/pickleball courts



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Tyler Mill Users Group

Submitted by: Joseph Robles, Scott Gray
joseph.robles@comcast.net

Boy Scout Trail

May 9, 2022

Overview

There are many "unauthorized trails" within the Tyler Mill recreation area that have been in regular use for decades. Previously there has been resistance to add trails to the "official" list. The "Boy Scout Trail" is reportedly to have been an Eagle Scout project many years ago. It is currently very popular as a connector from the Tamarack Swamp Rd. fields to the Red "Jeep" trail. Frequent users include hikers, dog walkers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

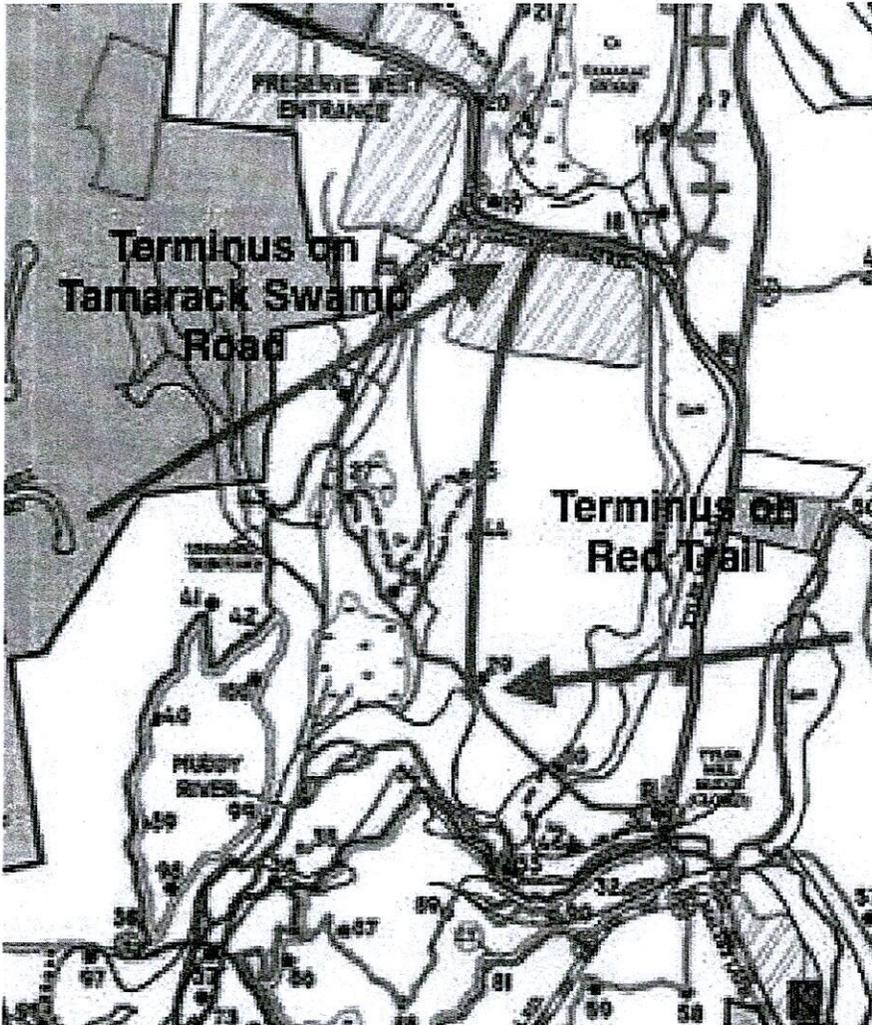
Goals

1. **Add to official inventory of trails:** Despite being one of the most popular trails at Tyler Mill, it has been eliminated from the Trailforks webpage due to being "unauthorized." It has never appeared on the "official map" of trails.
2. **Blaze and maintain trail:** There are no current blazes, though it is well worn. The path through the field stays to the side to minimize impact on the haying of the field. No improvements are required at this time. Occasional cutting of tall grass, brush, fallen trees, and branches will be required.

Specifications

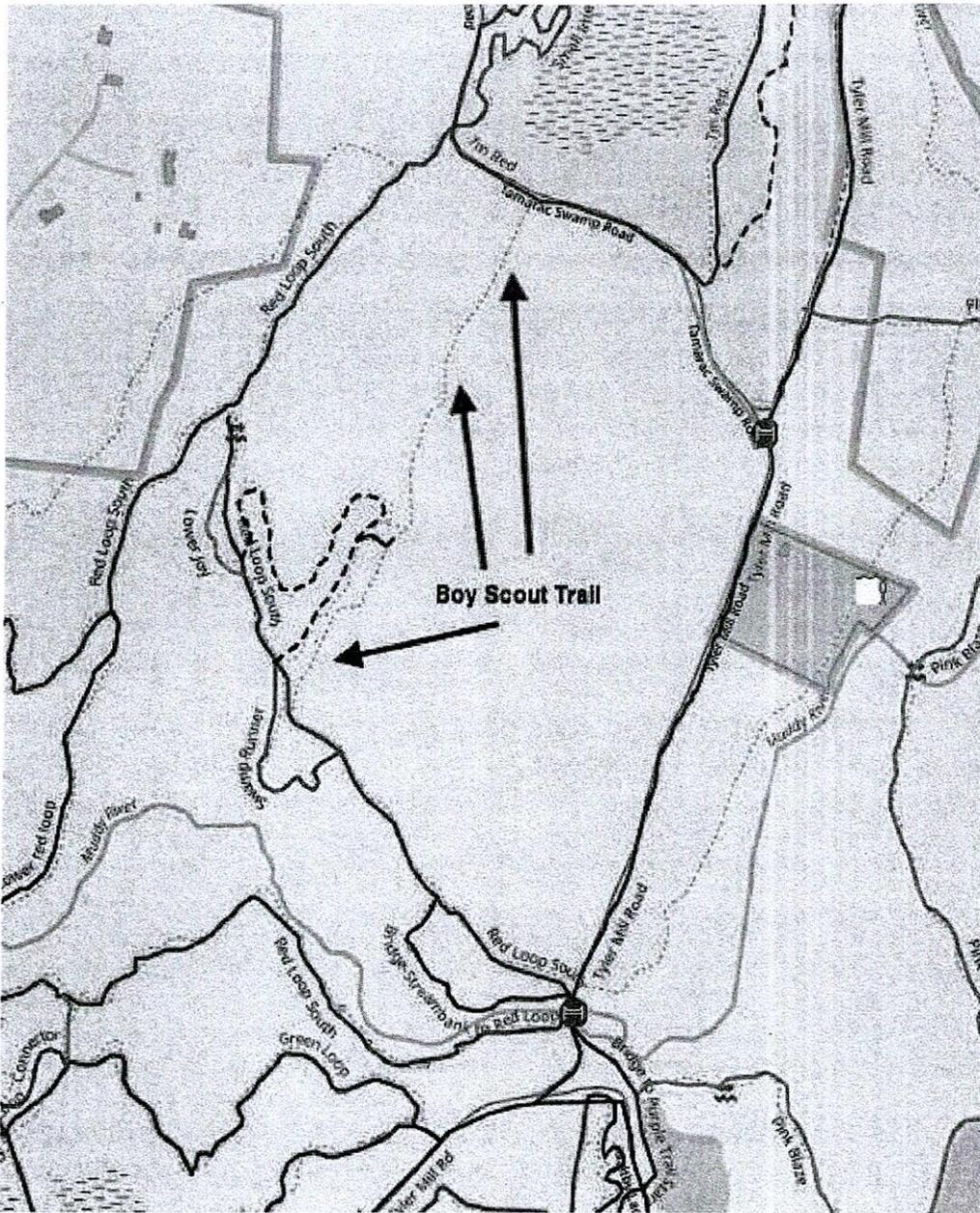
There is generalized agreement among all users that this should be authorized. It will require blazing within the forested area. The color of the blazes has yet to be decided. It will be blazed in accordance to guidelines set by state and/or federal agencies/ associations, e.g Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. Trail maintenance and grass cutting will be arranged by members of the Tyler Mill Users Group as necessary. No reroutes are anticipated.





Location on "Official Tyler Mill Map"





Location on Open Street Map from Trailforks

Milestones

1. Review by Users Group (early May 2022)

An email will be sent to members of the Tyler Mill Users Group (which includes hikers, bikers, hunters, and representation from Parks and Rec and the Conservation Commission). A Map will be provided, although most Users are quite familiar with the Boy Scout Trail. The Conservation Commission representative can relay the information to the farmer who hays the field since the farm lease program is administered through that group.

2. Deliberation (mid May 2022)

There is not much controversy. In the correspondence the Users will be asked if there are any concerns, or if any other parties should be notified. Likely no site visit will be necessary since it is well known. There should not be any need for the Users Group to meet to deliberate unless significant concerns arise.

3. Approval (end of May 2022)

If there are no major issues, Kenny Michaels, as the Director of Parks and Recreation, will give his approval. The news of the approval will be communicated to the Town Council and town officials Through the Parks and Rec Department. The trail will be added to the "official map" which will be published on the Parks and Rec webpage and at tylermill.org. Eventually the official map should be available on GPS enabled webpages like Trailforks.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing a network of thin tree trunks and a path that winds through the trees. The image is in black and white, with a dark, textured appearance. A white rounded rectangular border is centered on the page, containing the title text.

Green Bridge Project

Tyler Mill – Wallingford Connecticut
5/5/2022

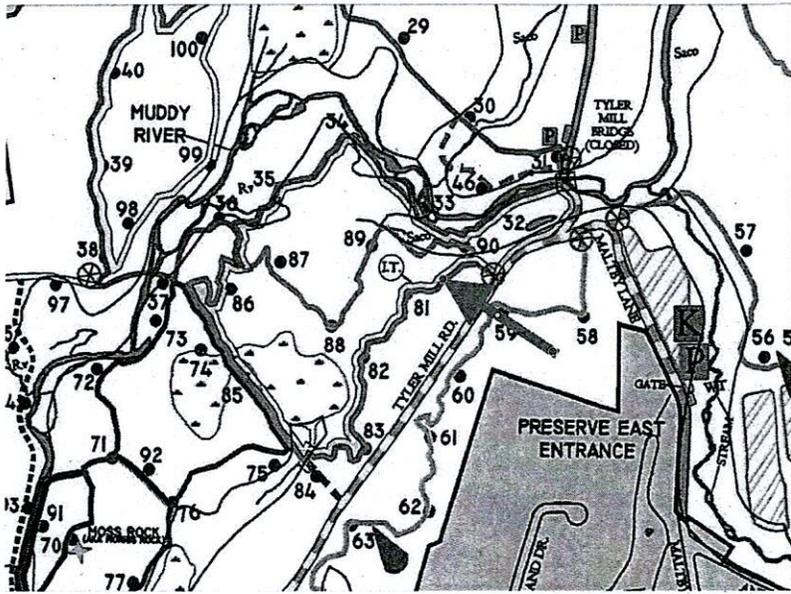
Background

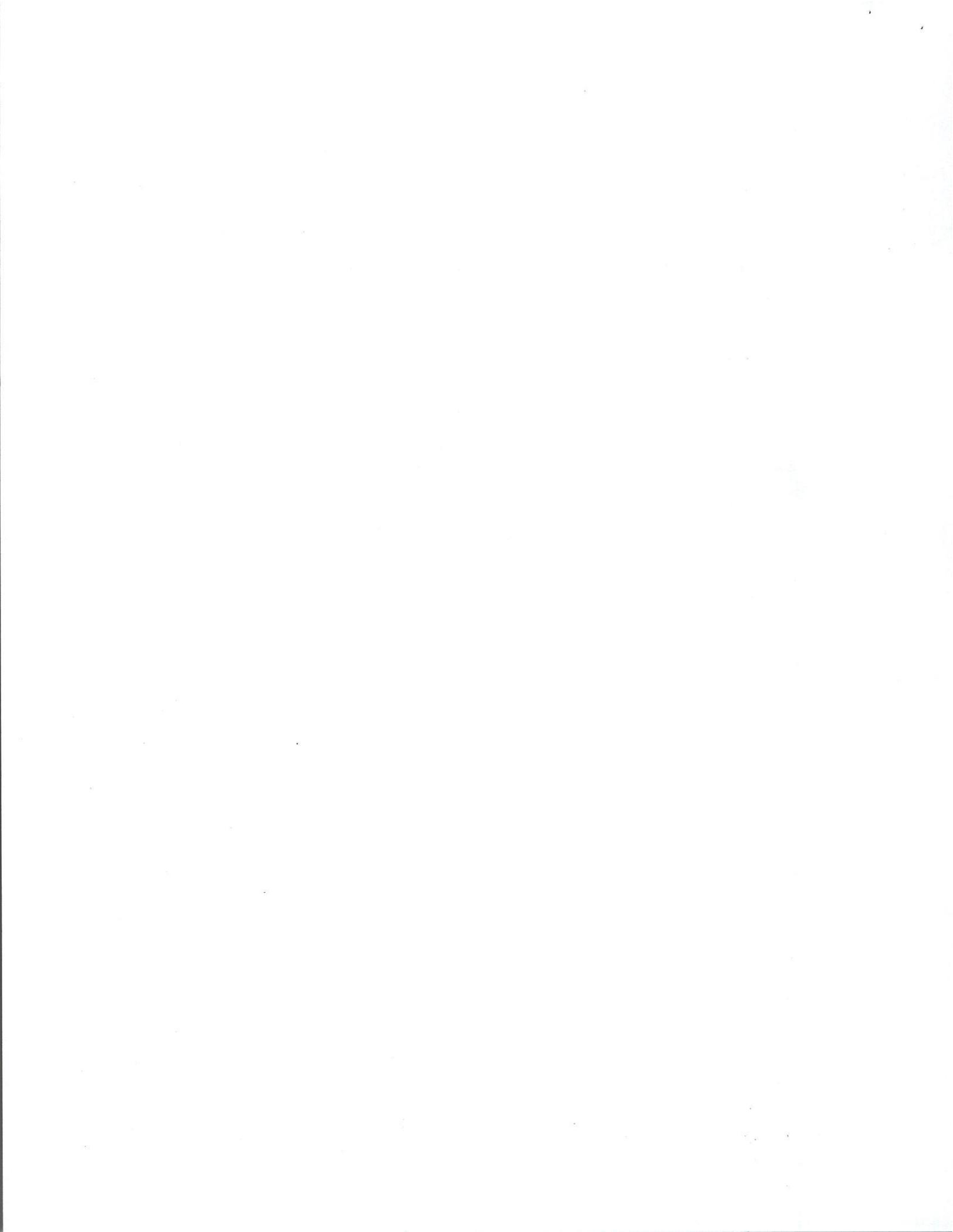
Upper section of green trail (near marker 81 on map below) is typically dry, except a section of trail ~120' long that continuously stays wet. There are no reasonable opportunities to re-route the trail to dry land.

This sections is currently covered by an old piecemeal bridge made of natural cedar logs, with two sections of hardwood, interrupted by one dirt section 32' long. This section, and the entire run of the 120' is wet enough to be "normally muddy". The current boardwalk is very rough, having deteriorated over many years of service – it needs a refresh.

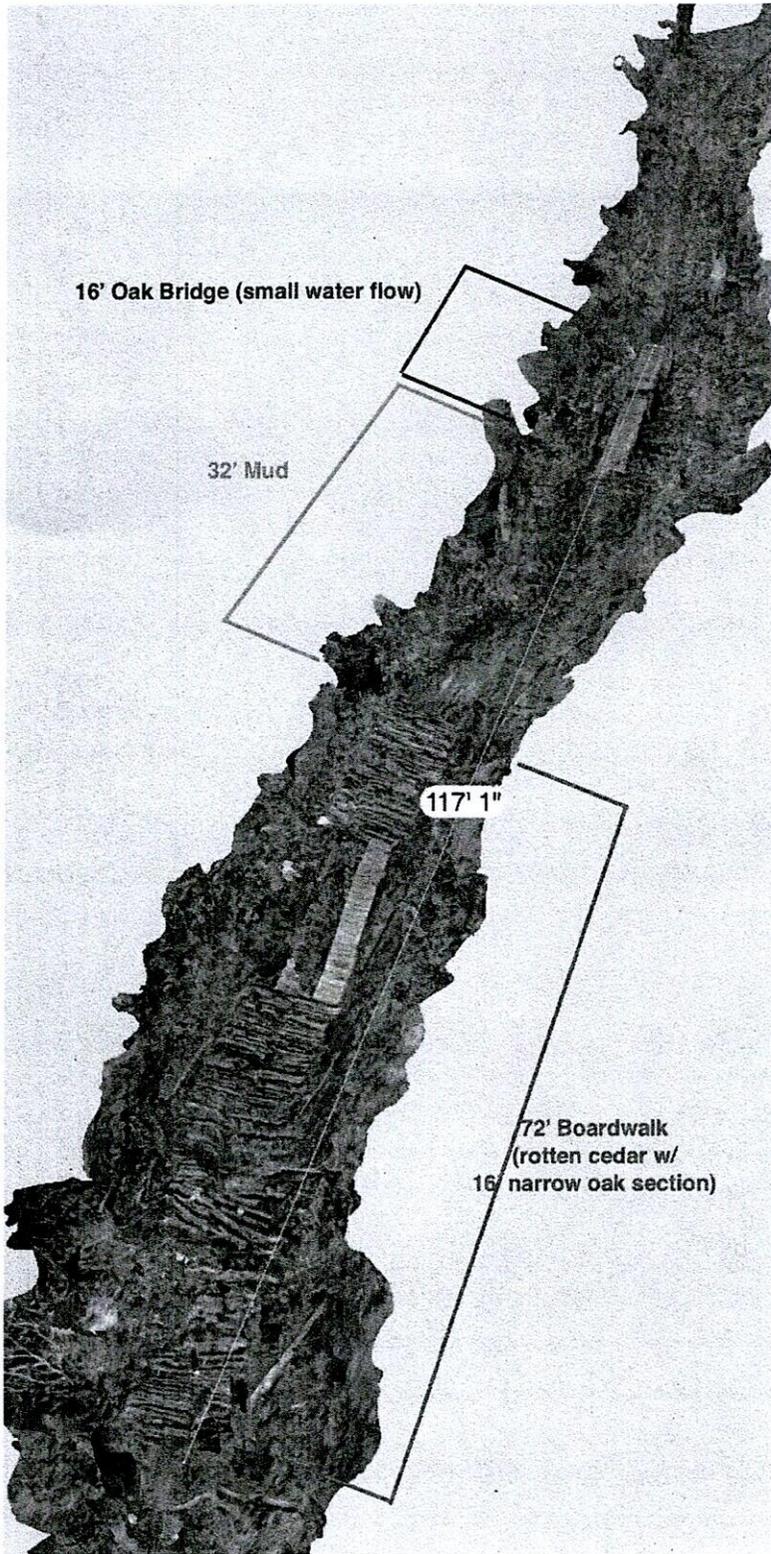


Location (red arrow)





Before (LiDAR 5/5/2022)

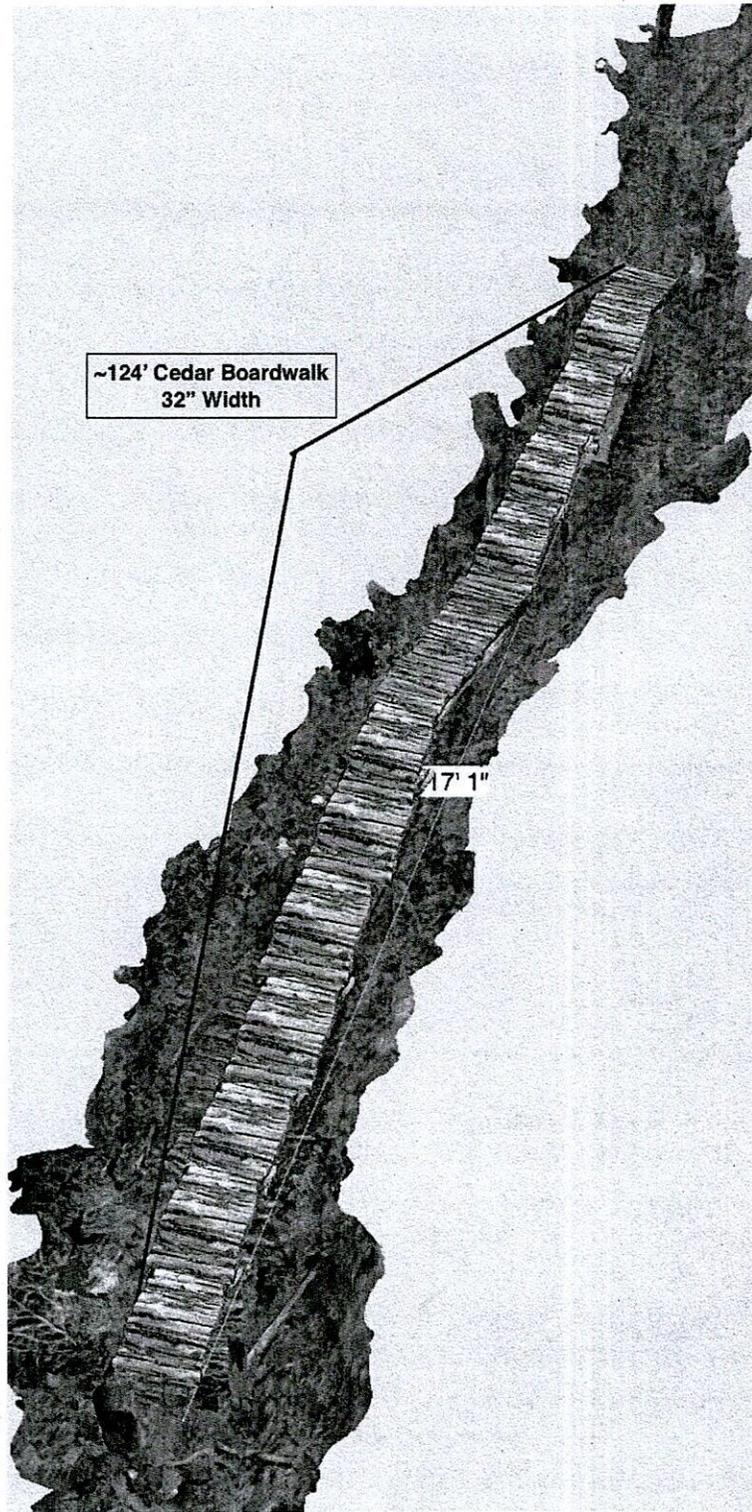


Proposal

Replace the existing boardwalk and two oak bridges with consistent 32" wide natural cedar logs.

- Cedar logs will come from blown down logs already on the ground – no trees will be cut down. Positive side effect of cleaning up the woods and reducing fire hazard.
- Cedar logs will be cleaned of branches and smoothed to avoid catching feet. Surface will be self-draining and have sufficient traction for feet, bikes and paws.
- Fasteners will be exterior grade.
- Two existing hardwood sections are too narrow for this long bridge, and will not 'match' – these will be moved to the "always muddy" area to extend the existing white oak boardwalk by 24' – solving that problem at the same time. The boardwalk sections will match and look nice in both places.

Proposed





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- Cedar logs will be cleaned of branches and smoothed to avoid catching feet. Surface will be self-draining and have sufficient traction for feet, bikes and paws.
- Cedar stringers or rocks will be used to support log boardwalk.
- Fasteners will be exterior grade.
- Two existing hardwood sections are too narrow for this long bridge, and will not 'match' – these will be moved to the "always muddy" area by the Woodhouse Soccer field access to trails to extend the existing white oak boardwalk by 24' – solving that problem at the same time. The boardwalk sections will match and look nice in both places.

Implementation

General approach and initial plan follows (may be adapted based on ground reality).

- **General**
 - Recover local blown down cedar – there is plenty available on the ground.
 - Prepare and pre-fabricate off-site where possible.
 - Move heavy loads of cedar material using John Deere Gator 6 wheel vehicle with dump bed (designed for soft footprint).
 - Most cutting will happen off-site, but final stringers and whatever is needed “in project” will come from surrounding area.
- **Stringers**
 - Set stringers on rocks and on solid earth, with a slight span to prevent ground contact where possible.
 - Longer lengths or connected shorter lengths of cedar logs will be used.
 - Notching only where needed – the cut faced decking will make it sit flat normally without notching.
- **Decking**
 - Cut to 32” logs
 - Cut logs in half to double material and get thickness reasonable.
- **Disposal of Existing Material**
 - Metal waste will be removed and disposed of, rotten cedar neatly placed out of sight near bridge site.
 - Hardwood bridge sections there today will be moved to nearby white oak boardwalk by soccer field access– to extend it the 24’ necessary to get through ALL the mud there (current boardwalk is short, these sections match it).
- **Construction**
 - Screw log once on each end to stringers.
 - Offset stringers to make sections connect on site.
 - Electric tools will be used where possible, all tools provided by those using them.
 - Small group of experienced trail builders – Ken Roe to coordinate.

Contact

Ken Roe
(860)539-5829 [text or call]
mail@kennethroe.com

**Tyler Mill
Rocks!**

