Blackstone Valley NEMBA

SPRING CHAPTER Meeting Minutes

Craftroots Brewing, Milford, Mass. | Monday, May 12th, 2025

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# Meeting Proceedings:

## Call to Order & Introductions

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:31 PM by Interim President Mike Carvalho

**ATTENDANCE:** ~32 members; multiple first-time attendees.

|  |
| --- |
| Curt Larson |
| Stephen Ives |
| Barry Kosherick |
| Brian McNeil |
| Linda Jannery |
| Karen Hagerty |
| Todd Genovese |
| Thomas Hudgins |
| Joshua Handverger |
| L Zimmer |
| Michael Tonry |
| Arlyn Larson |
| Marc Salois |
| Bill Rossi |
| Susan Poe |
| JOHN RITZ |
| ROBERT DENTE |
| Bob Garber |
| Bruce Rioux |
| Brad Hoben |
| Mathew Wood |
| Angela Wood |
| Ryan Wallner |
| Justin Schroth |
| Michael Breton |
| Wayne Clark |
| Kyle Grendell |
| Mike Carvalho |
| Jeff Smith |
| Russell Stearns |
| Kim Powell |
| Dan Brown |

**NEW FACES INTRODUCED:**

* Rob Rodente (Holliston)
* Steve Ives (West Upton)
* Brett Hopen (Medway)
* Todd (West Hill ride leader via Landry’s)
* Jeff Howard (near Vietnam)
* Mark Salois (Hopkinton)
* Kurt Larson (South Coast NEMBA)

## Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

* Motion: Biagio
* Seconded: Pat (Drumm?)

Motion passes unanimously

## Leadership Transition Vote

### Recognition of Prior President

Kevin Sylvia thanked for service as President.

### Appointment Ratification

A motion to ratify appointments by the leadership team was discussed. Appointments included:

* Mike Carvalho as President
* Kim Powell as Vice President

Motion by: Brian Belfer, Seconded by: Multiple members. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

### At-Large Vacancy:

* + Discussion deferred to Summer Meeting
	+ Chapter will formally solicit interest before vote

## Treasurer’s Report

### Chapter Financial Overview:

* Current Balance: $31,000
* 2025 Start Balance: $25,000
* Income Sources: Membership, Trailforks, Direct Donations
* Notable Donation: $750 via Trailforks

### Spending Overview:

* ~25% of annual budget spent
* Key Investments: First Aid, Chainsaw Training, Equipment
* BICP Certification: Kevin Keenan
* First Aid Kit Initiative: Kristen Brandt

***Reminder: Submit donation nominations by Fall Meeting per policy***

Josh confirms Treasurer’s Report will be included in future minutes (per Bruce R.)

Special Thanks were shared to CraftRoots Brewing for continued hospitality

## State of the Trails

### Vietnam (Kevin Keenan)

* New builds: Vacation Land, Power Line, B-Line (intermediate jump trail with progression features)
* Renamed trail: CraftRoots Connector
* Final Spring Workday: Sunday, May 18 (9 AM–1 PM, NEMBA Square)
* Trail closure updates: Rubber Stamp officially closed and naturalized

### Millbury (Kyle Grendell)

* Wet spring limited progress
* Witch Hazel Run ready
* Vegetation clearing for pump track to begin
* Support from Millbury Nature Trails with infrastructure and shared costs
* All trails marked in Trailforks

### Northborough/Pisgah (Brian Belfer)

* Maintenance-focused
* Some closures proposed to facilitate compliance with ConCom
* Clarified budget allocations across Northborough parcels

### Natick (Mike Carvalho)

* Youth-led trail project approved in Honeywell Forest
* Ground broken May 2; next workday: May 17
* BVNEMBA providing support and tools
* Discussion on future stewardship as builders graduate

### West Hill Dam (Biagio, Kevin, Ron Woodall)

* Skills park maintained in March
* Work needed on jump landings and drop zone
* West Hill Dam Ranger Ron:
* Corps staffing challenges expected for summer
* USACE master plan finalized; Q&A session forthcoming
* West Hill parking expansion underway
* Community partnerships critical to success

### Callahan State Park (Chris B., Barry Z.)

* Walkthrough with DCR archaeologist and ecologist
* Reroutes for low-lying Rocky Hill Rd trail in progress
* Volunteer projects anticipated (bridges, berms, drainage)

### Sherborn (Steve B. & Kristin B.)

* Extensive town-run trail system; seasonal Trustees access (Rocky Narrows)
* Women’s Ride Series hosted here
* Kristin notes complex dynamic with in-town group

### Nobscot (Barry & Justin)

* Trails riding well
* Friday morning rides continue strong

### Holliston (Mike C.)

* Advocating for conservation restriction (CR) near **current** golf course
* Supports protection of Wenakeening trails and long-term stewardship

## Ride Area Representative (RaR) Program

Mike Carvalho discussed the positions and it’s history within the chapter already, mainly as an unrecognized — or informal role in the past.

* Formalization of existing local advocacy roles
* 17 RaRs appointed with NEMBA.org emails
* Responsibilities include:
* Liaison with land managers and towns
* Local trail maintenance coordination
* Trailforks admin rights encouraged (per Bruce R.)

### Highlighted Reps & Updates:

* Berlin: Ethan – Workday May 18, member of ConCom, MCRT extension advocacy
* Hopkinton, Oxford, Mendon: No formal updates but areas monitored
* Trailforks Tip: Admin status helps manage trail alerts, status updates
* Josh: RaRs are doing 17x the work previously possible

## Group Rides & Events

* Rides posted to Eventbrite; RSVPs encouraged
* Examples: Nobscot Fridays, Women’s Rides, Sherborn, WHD
* Retro Ride planned (Bill D.)
* Volunteers needed for leading and sweeping
* Kristin Brandt on the Women’s Rides: Waitlist for Women’s Ride often clears – ***tell folks to sign up!***

## Education & Recap

### First Aid Course:

* 20 members certified (second consecutive year)
* Custom kits assembled and distributed

### Spring Social:

This past spring’s ride was cancelled due to weather. The recommendation to go forward would be to aim for a Late April/Early May 2026 timeline.

### Beginning Bridges Event:

* 4 bikes donated
* Supported by West Hill Dam Rangers & Landry’s
* Rep. Murray acknowledged us through this outreach

## Blackstone Patch Completion:

* 2024 patches distributed to ~10 attendees
* Ride program/series will return for Summer 2025, tentative date to begin with Summer Solstice.

## Training & Trail School

### NEMBA Trail School:

* Date: June 7–8, Williamstown, MA
* 2-day workshop; cost covered by BVNEMBA
* Camping available
* Recommended for RaRs, ride leaders, and new volunteers

## Open Floor & Q&A

### MassBike (Kristin B.):

* New BVNEMBA rep on MassBike board
* May is Bike Month – resources available for events

### Unicycle Policy Discussion (Ron W.):

* Ongoing evaluation of trail impact
* Rider permitted to continue during review
* Members asked to report issues respectfully

### WHD Master Plan:

* West Hill Dam USACE Master Plan finalized
* Public comment period and Q&A to come
* Trail projects and priorities being formalized

### Best Dam Ride Planning

* Announced by: Kim Powell
* Volunteers needed: Parking, Routes, Registration, Setup
* Event slated for Fall 2025 at West Hill Dam

## Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Josh Handverger, seconded by Kim Powell. Adjourned: 8:01 PM

## Appendix:

### Treasurer’s RepORT







### Ride Area Rep DIRECTORY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **BERLIN** | [**ETHAN BICKFORD**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U05JH07A22E) | **EBICKORD@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **UPTON, HOPKINTON, GRAFTON** | [**LAURA ZIMMER**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036NHMEWKV) | **LZIMMER@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **MENDON TOWN FOREST** | [**BILL DAKAI**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036GMY87TP) | **BDAKAI@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **MILLBURY** | [**KYLE GRENDELL**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U07KWPPPB7Y) **|** [**RYAN WALLNER**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U066S5AHK8S) | **KGRENDELL@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **CALLAHAN STATE PARK** | [**CHRIS FIALA**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U076G5L8ADA) **|** [**DAN BENDELL**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U07673HJ9HU) | **CFIALA@NEMBADBENDELL@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **MT PISGAH (NORTHBOROUGH & BERLIN)** | [**BRIAN BELFER**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U035VER3AG5) **|** [**ETHAN BICKFORD**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U05JH07A22E) | **BBELFER@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **UXBRIDGE, NORTHBRIDGE (GOAT HILL/BADLANDS)** | [**MIKE TONRY**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U037AMDP80G) | **MTONRY@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **WEST HILL DAM** | [**BILL DAKAI**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036GMY87TP) | **BDAKAI@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **WEST HILL DAM - SKILLS PARK** | [**BIAGIO CAUTILLI**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036H2MUL4V) | **BCAUTILLI@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **SHERBORN** | **STEVE BRANDT** | **SBRANDT@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **NOBSCOT** | [**JUSTIN SCHROTH**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036CKD09E2) **|** [**BARRY KOSHERICK**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U036SJSAWM7) | **JSCHROTH@NEMBA.ORG****BKOSHERICK@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **DOUGLAS** | [**MIKE TONRY**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U037AMDP80G) | **MTONRY@NEMBA.ORG** |
| **HOLLISTON** | [**KEVIN KEENAN**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U0364K4T007) **|** [**MIKE CARVALHO**](https://bvnemba.slack.com/team/U05NAEBC5V2) | **KKEENAN@NEMBA.ORG****MCARVALHO@NEMBA.ORG** |