

**Hinesburg Trails Committee
Minutes of July 11, 2012 Meeting**

Present: Cathy Ryan, Lenore Budd, Jim Goldsmith, Michelle Fischer

Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:05.

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were previously circulated via email to members, changes incorporated, then approved posted online. There were no additional changes at this time.
2. Martha Keenan provided an update on the Jolley development. Martha reports that the DRB decision not only required them to give an easement for a sidewalk but also required them to install a sidewalk within a year or NRG acquiring all necessary permits. Originally a 10-foot easement was requested - it is now a 15-foot easement, which will make it easier to pursue a grant for funding. The goal is to proceed all the way to CVU Rd. NRG is a strong proponent of seeking the grant and are open to paying the 10% match, since this is less than the \$120,000 estimate they were once willing to pay for the entire sidewalk. NRG will donate the easement on their property. Martha reports she will seek approval from the Selectboard at a July 23 meeting to pursue grant funding. **She and Lenore encouraged as many Trails members and other interested parties as possible to attend and express support. Though there is little risk and the Selectboard is expected to look favorably on the grant pursuit, the meeting minutes become part of the grant request and substantiate public support.**
3. Treasurer's Report: The Town fiscal year has just ended. Once members pay for individual T-shirts purchased, we will come in very close to budget. We now have \$500 for the new fiscal year, \$500 from Bart Frisbee, \$473.21 still left from the SChIP grant, and \$500 from the Vt Recreation Trails fund mini-grant. Jim reiterated Missy's request that members use Town charge accounts where possible and minimize the amount of reimbursements to individuals.
4. Russell Trails: Cathy reports she has walked the portion redone by the VYCC which came out very well, though she wonders how well it will hold up given the clay base. The VYCC did not get to the eroded area. This will be a concern for another year or for a Trails work project. Lenore noted that the bridge behind the baseball field still needs to be fixed. The short-term solution is redecking, while a long-term solution would be replacement, preferably with a longer bridge. Lenore offered that replacing the bridge and building steps on the eroded section of the Russell trail could be the subject of a 2013 VT Recreation Trails Fund grant but perhaps the work could be done sooner and less expensively by hiring a trail contractor and serving as his unskilled labor. Lenore is familiar with a project where a former VYCC crew member oversaw the project, with the labor provided by the community. This possibility was discussed, and Jim reported favorable results with a similar supervision of a work project at the HCS playground. Lenore reports the spur down to Buck Hill is overgrown again, and the Committee members discussed the challenge in maintaining an extensive trail network. It was agreed that more community involvement would be tremendously helpful.
5. Old Town Forest: The VYCC did erosion mitigation work on both the now-abandoned Eagle Trail and on a stretch of the Eagle's Trail closer to the Economeau Rd. parking area. Lenore moved the Eagle's Trail blazes from the abandoned stretch to Homestead Trail. The map needs to be redone to show this and posted at the trailhead. The proposed Town Forest management

plan is now online and proposes a significant role for the Trails Committee. **Trails members are urged to read the report and respond to fellow Trails Committee members.**

6. Upcoming events: Michelle reported that the June evening walk at Lake Iroquois drew no public participants, though Trails was well-represented. The temperature in excess of 90 degrees played a role. She reported that at the last meeting of the Lake Iroquois Rec District, admission fees for such events were discussed. The District receives a number of requests for reduced or free admission and has been consistent in turning them down inasmuch as the fees pay for the substantial cost of maintaining the property. It was decided that, for future events of this nature, Trails members would not be charged, but members of the public would be. It was discussed and agreed that the August 15 event should be at another trail location, with the Lake Iroquois event in September once the beach is closed and fees are no longer assessed.
7. Kiosk update: Jim reports that our contractor has had to pull out of his bid due to a heavy work schedule. It was discussed and agreed that we would like to use this contractor due to his favorable estimate and previous work for us. It was suggested and generally agreed that we wait until cooler weather returns, when a slower work schedule might allow him to build. Jim reports that the Land Trust presently has the kiosk proposal in hand and will be making a decision.
8. Russell Trail signs update was postponed until Jason could attend a meeting.
9. Hidden Meadows wild parsnip problem: Peter emailed Fish & Wildlife on 7/6/12 asking them to control the wild parsnip and indicating the Trails Committee's willingness to help. From a trails perspective, it is desirable to mow the entire meadow so the parsnip is not allowed to seed itself. It was noted that Fish & Wildlife might have a different perspective, as this would reduce human traffic and provide better wildlife habitat. There was general discussion about the invasive nature of parsnip throughout our trail system.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Fischer