



Trails Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

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Meeting Minutes March 20, 2013

Members Present: Stewart Pierson, Lenore Budd, Ray Mainer, Michelle Fischer, Jim Goldsmith, Cathy Ryan, Jane Sheldon

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Minutes of the February 20th meeting had been approved by email and have been posted to the town website.
2. Jim reported that there was one expenses in the past month, \$368 taken from the VRTP 2012 grant for blazes, so the total funds available is now \$2143.82.
3. Lenore reported that the Parker Trail Easement project is moving along, waiting only for some word tweaking by the lawyers on both sides.
4. Lenore reported that she and Alex Weinhagen had been working on updating the trail maps. She will be meeting with him again soon to finish the corrections.
5. Stew reported that Jason has finished the signs for the Russell Trail and they will be ready to install, a possible project for our workday on June 1st.
6. Jim reported that he had to postpone the meeting with Steve Walker, who is to build the Russell Trail kiosk, due to the snowstorm yesterday. We reviewed the specs for the ones that Chuck Reiss is constructing for the Old Town Forest and Jim will work with Steve so the ones we are building will be as similar as possible.
7. One of the priorities for the Russell Trails is erosion control. James Donegan has asked us to move this to the top of our list. We reviewed maps and possible alternatives for rerouting the worst of the trail segments through the problem area. There is land adjacent to the Russell property owned by Tom Whitney that may be a possible location. Stew will contact Tom to see if he would consider this usage. If yes, Ray will speak to John Roos who has offered help in

erosion abatement so the TC and all parties concerned can walk the property to decide on a new route

8. Re the sidewalk on Route 116 next to Aubuchon, Lenore will follow up with Peter Erb to see what the outcome of the DRB meeting was last night.
9. We reviewed the effort involved with setting up and staffing a table at Town Meeting. There was some interest in our revised brochures and we agreed that it's helpful to keep a presence, but we will revisit the effort next January and decide then.
10. Re Sue's project to get more children involved with using the trails, Jane introduced her to Ginny Roberts at HCS and Sue was to have joined a hike to the Russell Sugar House on March 12th. Unfortunately it was rained out. Ginny gave Sue the name of the after-school program coordinator at HCS for Sue to pursue other events.
11. Stewart and Ray had attended the invasive species meeting and were asked if the TC could do an inventory on the trail system of these species and map out their location for future eradication projects. The TC will do its best to record any that it comes across during maintenance projects.
12. We discussed the need for long term planning in order to prepare for larger upcoming maintenance projects. Other towns present a list of projects and estimated costs to their Select Boards for inclusion in annual budgets. This system might allow us to take care of repairs much more rapidly than having to write grants after a problem has been identified. Each trail steward should make a list of potential repairs or upgrades that they think will need to be done in the next year or two.
13. Jane is writing the next article for the Record. It will explain about TC's trail stewards, and try to recruit residents to help out on their favorite systems. The goal is to get teams for each area, like Peter has organized for the New Town Forest. Currently the stewards are: Jane and Lenore for Geprags, Peter for the New Town Forest, Cathy and Jim for Russell/Thistle Hill, and Michelle and Ray for the Old Town Forest.
14. Future articles for the Record will be written by Lenore (May issue/deadline May 1st) and Stewart (June issue/deadline June 5th).
15. National Trails Day is June 1st and there are numerous projects that need to be worked on. We will attempt to get volunteers for the easier ones (cutting back overgrowth on trails, e.g.) or possibly just offer a guided hike with no work involved. Planning will continue at the April meeting.
16. Michelle reported that her husband, Steve, had planned to attend this meeting to discuss an old trail linking Lake Iroquois Mud Pond in Williston which we could offer to restore, as part of our connectivity efforts. He was unable to join us but will try for the April meeting.

17. Lenore reminded us that we are scheduled to contact the new owners of the Tufo property this spring, to discuss possible use of their land for a trail in the New Town Forest. She will call them to set up a meeting.

18. Jane asked if the TC would be organizing a group to march in the July 4th parade again this year. It was decided that we will check in with everyone as the date gets closer to see if we have enough of us in town at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary