



Trails Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

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Meeting Minutes April 17, 2013

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

Guest: Jason Reed

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

1. Minutes of March 20th meeting had been approved by email and have been posted to the town website.
2. Jim reported that there were no additional expenses in the past month.
3. Jason showed us the finished signs for the Russell Trails. Jason and Cathy will scout out the best locations for placement, and record whether they should be put onto trees or if posts will be needed, as well as what equipment will be required. Sue and Michelle have post hole diggers that we can use. Stewart will check with Jim Donegan to make sure that using trees to post signs is all right with him.
4. National Trails Day activities on June 1st will include installing the signs on the Russell Trails. Stewart will call Peter to see if he wants to organize a work party for any projects on the La Platte Headwater trails. Cathy and Sue offered to organize and lead a scavenger hunt type activity for kids and families.
5. Lenore reported that Tom Whitney, the owner of the land where we would like to reroute the eroded portion of the Russell Trail, has not yet responded to her, after she sent him some sample easement documents for him to review. Stewart will follow up with him.
6. Lenore will contact the David Meath and Deb Allen again to discuss their willingness to host on their property a portion of the trail connecting the north and south portions of the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest.

7. Sue will continue to make contacts at the Hinesburg Community School in the effort to get some programs where students can get out and onto the trails in town. Jane reported that the mentor program is considering a hike in Geprags Park as their end-of-year event, though no decision has been made or date set. She will keep Sue updated for possible TC involvement.
8. The Select Board is working on getting a grant to help fight invasive species. The County Forester, Keith Tompson, would like to organize neighborhood committees to try to work on this problem. The Russell Trails is the current priority.
9. Ray has offered to build the kiosk for the Russell Trail. Jim worked with him on the design and Ray will buy the materials. The Hinesburg Land Trust has offered to contribute \$1500 toward this kiosk and the TC will make up the difference over that amount. Stewart will check with Ray to see what the expected completion time is.
10. Jane will chair the July 4th parade committee.
11. Trail steward reports: Jane has not had a chance to walk the Geprags trails yet, but will do so this weekend. Stewart and Jim will walk the Russell Trails to check on the bridges and see if any other work needs to be done. Ray was not present to report if any work, over and above the original blow-down, needs to be done.
12. Lenore reported that she and Alex have finished updating the LaPlatte and Russell system maps and are working on the Old Town Forest. She hopes to have them done before she leaves for June and July.
13. Lenore is writing the article for the Record for the May issue (due May 1st) and Stewart will do so for the June issue (due June 5th).
14. Long term projects include: Russell Trail - rerouting the trail around the eroded part, replacing or fixing bridges that are listing or rotting, adding signs to the Buck Hill entry and constructing a parking area there. La Platte – cutting through the blow-downs on the trail leading to the Hemingways and rerouting the trail away from their house) and improving drainage on the Bissonette loop. Rec fields – making sure there is a trail to the new Bissonette recreation fields. Mud Pond connector – working with Steve Fischer to see if there is a good way to connect the Lake Iroquois trails with the one at Mud Pond in Williston.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary