



## Trails Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

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### Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2013

**Members Present:** Stewart Pierson, Michelle Fischer, Jim Goldsmith, Jane Sheldon, Sue Rusten, and Peter VanVranken

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes of May 15th meeting had been approved by email and have been posted to the town website.
2. Jim reported that we have a total of \$2060.72 on hand; \$443.29 in the SCHIP grant account, \$132 in the VRTP1 grant account, \$500 in the VTRP2 grant account, \$453 in the Frisbie grant account and \$531.23 left in the town allocation account. We also have been pledged \$1500 from the Hinesburg Land Trust to be used toward kiosk building.
3. Ray has been working on kiosks for the Russell Trails and the Old Town Forest entrance on Hayden Hill West. Jim will call him to tell him to send in all receipts for reimbursement from the Town account before June 30, when the fiscal year runs out. **Note: All expenses should be cleared through Jim** who will liaise with Missy to ensure that the correct account is debited, as some grants can be used for specific purposes only.
4. Stewart reported that the misleading arrows on the new signs for the Russell Trails have been fixed. We need to make one more sign for the entrance at Buck Hill and the Lavigne-Buckhill connector. Rather than try and build one large enough to hold a map on the Buckhill sign, Jim suggested getting a map holder and placing printed maps of the system in them. He will investigate what types are available and their costs.
5. Regarding signage, Stewart will talk with the Town Forest Committee to clarify which group/committee is responsible for the signs in which of the trail systems. The goal is to standardize the appearance of all signs. It had been suggested that Trails Committee take responsibility for new signs in LaPlatte and adjoining trail systems. (This suggestion is supported by Stephen Russell, chair of the Town Forest Committee.)
6. Sue reported that the scavenger hunt she organized for National Trails Day, June 1st, was a success with several families participating and the kids enjoying the hunt for items on the list. Another one will be planned for the fall, with only a few minor tweaks.

7. The erosion abatement project on the Russell Trails has been on hold until all interested parties can be scheduled to meet. Lenore, Stewart and Ray from the Trails Committee, and the two land owners, James Donegan and Tom Whitney need to all be present to finalize the best way to solve the issue, whether fixing the existing trail or rerouting it onto the Whitney property.
8. Stewart reported that Ray has completed two of the kiosks. One has been installed at the Hayden Hill West entrance and the other will be installed at the LaPlatte Headwaters. He will now start the kiosk for the Russell Trails.
9. Re: the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, we will meet at 10:30 a.m. near the bottom of Buck Hill Road, hopefully with several other family members and friends. Jane has ordered the "Take a Hike" banner from Ann Brush, the cost of which was \$45.
10. Sue is writing the article for the August issue of The Record, the deadline for which is August 7<sup>th</sup>, and Jane will write an article for the September issue, the deadline for which is September 4<sup>th</sup>.
11. The owners of the property in the LaPlatte Headwater system, where we would like to add a trail, have expressed interest to Lenore regarding selling 3.6 acres of their property to allow the corridor to be built between the south and northern ends of the area. Lenore will follow up when she returns in August.
12. Sue reported on the additional events she is organizing for the town's children this summer, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> with the HCS summer program, and August 8<sup>th</sup> with the HCRC. Details will be finalized when a better head count of kids can be provided. Jim suggested breaking up the groups into K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, if the total number of kids gets to be unwieldy. Jane and Sue will scout the Russell Trails before any events to make sure they are free of debris or overgrowth.
13. Trail steward reports: Peter had continued to work to clear the blow-down debris in the LaPlatte Headwater area, as well as mowing and brush hogging much of the field areas as allowed (Hidden Meadow can only be mowed on part of the perimeter due to nesting birds) and as much as the rains would permit. Jane reported that Geprags is in need of mowing as well, and there is a tree over the trail just south of the Lupine spur. Stewart will provide her with the name of the person on the Conservation Commission to contact to get the work done.
14. Stewart and Lenore will both be gone in July so Jim will be in charge of running the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jane reported that she may not be in town that week so Sue will take the minutes if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary