



Trails Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

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Meeting Minutes October 16, 2013

Present: Stewart Pierson, Jane Sheldon, Lenore Budd, Michelle Fischer, Ray Mainer, Sue Rusten

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. The minutes from the September meeting had been approved via e-mail and have been posted to the town's website.
2. Stewart reported that George Dameron has been appointed to the committee, but could not make this first meeting. We look forward to welcoming him at the November meeting.
3. Jim was not able to attend but provided the following account totals to Stewart. Mini-grant #1 (Jason's) = \$132 and must be used by December 31st of this year or forfeited; Mini-grant #2 (Lenore's) = \$500 which is good until December 31st 2014; SCHIP grant = \$369.36; Frisbee grant = \$453.70 and the town's allotment = \$750. The total we have to work with currently is \$2205.06.
4. Ray will purchase plexiglass for the kiosks before the end of the year and use the money from the first mini-grant, although he does not expect it to total as much as \$132.
5. Lenore will be writing the article for the December issue, the deadline for which is November 6th. We need to assign the January, 2014 article to someone. That deadline is January 1st.
6. The repair of the damage to the neighbor's electric dog fence at La Platte Headwaters totaled \$369 and will be paid out of the Town Forest's kiosk fund.
7. Geprag's posts for blazes where there are no trees have been installed. Stewart, Lenore and Sue finished that project over four visits and Sue took some photos. She will send them out to everyone. Jane will add them to the Trails Committee archive file.
8. More discussion was had about installing signs on the connecting trails in the Old Town Forest. Although it had been decided in the previous meeting to use the additional pre-painted signs left over from the Russell Trail project and do a "test" on the Eagle / Maiden / International /

Passing the Horizon intersections Lenore suggested that it would be better if a master plan was created first. This plan would finalize which trails would definitely be closed and which left open, which type of symbols would be used on which trails (indicating which type of usage is allowed), etc. We agreed this change was sensible and Stewart, Michelle and Lenore will liaise with the Town Forest Committee and Fellowship of the Wheel.

9. Ray will work on the kiosk for the LaPlatte Headwaters trailhead next. Sylvie Vidrine is working on the inserts, Alex Weinhagen is working on printing out the map and Andrea Morgante is determining which organizations will be listed in the credits.
10. Stewart, Lenore and Brooke Scatchard met at the eroded section of the Russell Trail and worked out a short reroute including constructing new steps, and reusing parts of the existing bridge. Brooke is to provide an estimate for design, materials, and supervising a volunteer crew. Stewart and Lenore subsequently created a short, temporary bypass of the eroding chasm.
11. Michelle will attend the Chittenden County Trails Caucus this coming Saturday.
12. Michelle reported that we had a great turnout for the Foliage Walk on Sunday, October 13th. About 10 new people joined the hike and all expressed that they had wanted to hike the Old Town Forest but didn't feel they knew it well enough. Those names will be added to the list of contacts that Jane had started from the survey we distributed a few years ago at Town Meeting.
13. Lenore continues to talk with neighbors of the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest about the possibility of their selling a strip of land to the Town to host a section of trail connecting the north and south portions of the forest. Lenore is working to get answers from state officials re procedures and penalties involved in taking land out of the Current Use Program in which much of the landowners' property is now enrolled.
14. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary