



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - August 19, 2015

- Approved 9/16/15 -

**Present:** Peter Modley, Jane Sheldon, Sue Rusten, Lenore Budd, Jim Goldsmith

**Guest:** Ann Thomas, James McAllister

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

- 1) **Minutes** – Sue made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting, Jim seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Susan also made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting, Peter seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 2) **Budget Update** – The Trails Committee (TC) currently has \$3233.85 in its budget, of which \$2160 is earmarked for the Russell Bridge replacement, leaving \$1073.85 for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- 3) **Hinesburg Historical Society Proposal** – Ann Thomas of HHS, attended to discuss the possibility of running a joint venture for self-guided historical themed walks, starting with the old mill ruins on Mill Street. The HHS has developed a booklet with photos and explanatory text which can be borrowed by groups from schools or clubs. The TC would set up posts with numbers on them, keyed to photos in the booklet, and help maintain the routes. Lenore will draft a letter to the Select Board and to the neighbors to see if there are any issues, and will look into the cost of pressure treated wood for the posts.
- 4) **James McAllister** – James attended to report on the progress of his project he’s working on to become an Eagle Scout. He has developed a pamphlet with directions for a hiking route on the Russell Trails and an outline of old houses in town. It directs people to go on the Russell Trail to the Overlook and look down on town. Lenore signed a statement that we approve the pamphlet concept, with a few edits to be suggested in the near future. We will send our suggested edits to Susan. James also offered to supply younger scouts’ help with trail maintenance.
- 5) **Tool Purchase** – We were not able to get an extension on the VRTP#2 grant, so it expired. If we still want to purchase trail tools the VT Recreation Trails Program is an appropriate grant source and we can apply again.

- 6) **Fall Festival** – The Town Forest Committee (TFC) and the TC will be organizing a joint scavenger hunt in the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) to be conducted in the week before the festival on September 26, with the prizes to be given out at the festival. The TC will help staff a table in the Mail Hall of the Town Hall on that day. We will be passing out maps and other material. Details will be finalized at the September meeting.
  
- 7) **Russell Bridge Project** – Lenore has been in touch with Timber and Stone to try and pin down a date for the construction. She will alert us as soon as she gets a commitment, though it may be in October.
  
- 8) **Sleepy Hollow** – Lenore, Peter M. and Micky Stone (of Fellowship of the Wheel) did preliminary scouting on a route for a new section of trails between Texas Hill and Magee Hill. Another scouting session will be held in the fall when the vegetation is less dense. Lenore sent a request to Budd Allen for a legal opinion regarding the utility of the Sleepy Hollow easement on the White property.
  
- 9) **Record Articles** - Sue sent in the article for the August issue, Lenore will be writing the September article and Stewart was suggested as the author for the October issue, to be confirmed when he returns from vacation.

#### 10) Other Business

- a. Peter reported that Ted had brush hogged the trails for many hours at Geprags.
- b. Annette’s Preschool is considering setting up a Story Walk in the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF). Sue will check the route to make sure there are no fallen trees or branches.
- c. As part of the statewide celebration of 100 years of Town Forests, the Trust for Public land going to be running a field trip in the LHTF the day before the Fall Festival. They may need a TC person to liaise with them.
- d. Jane reported that Trevor Lashua reported to her that the ped/bike lane will be widened to 3’ when the town repaints the fog line on Richmond and North Rd later this month.
- e. Jane questioned if we should require permission from the TC or TFC to put up additional signage on the kiosks, from outside groups. She had found some at the Hayden Hill East entrance to the HTF, one of which had obscured the map holder. The general consensus was that it would be impossible to enforce this rule, so we agreed that we will just remove or move signs that are inappropriate or outdated when we find them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary