



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes - June 22, 2016

- Approved 8/17/16 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Lenore Budd, Peter Modley, Oren Guttman

Guest: Chic McArthur

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

1. **Minutes** – The minutes from the May meeting could not be approved due to lack of quorum.
2. **Budget** – Since the May meeting we have spent \$860.37, mostly on materials for building bridges. We have essentially zeroed out our budget. Lenore asks that when we charge anything at Aubuchon or Curtis Lumber, we put our names and “Trails Committee” on the receipts so Missy can reconcile on the TC budget. Lenore also reported that we were awarded the SCHIP grant and received the check for \$500 for tools.
3. **National Trails Day** – A considerable amount of work got done. There were 25 – 30 volunteers helping in three areas. Channel 44 also sent a TV news reporter who filmed volunteers at the bridges being built.
 - a. **VT Fish and Wildlife Land** – Ramps were put in at the “Dead Deer Bridge.” A bridge was built south of Hidden Meadow, which will now be called “Oren’s Bridge” because of the branch he used to artistically construct the railing. He mentioned that those ramps probably need more fill. Peter van Vranken installed several sections of puncheon over a muddy stretch of trail and a team of volunteers opened up a short reroute to bypass another poorly drained section of trail.
 - b. **Gepags** – Peter reported that the tree on the NW spur in Gepags that blocked the trail was pulled away. They also cleared broken branches that were hanging over that trail. Jane showed the map that the Bob Hyams from the Conservation Commission (CC) provided outlining the areas that he mowed. She also reported that the loop and one connecting trail there was cleared. Stakes from the Story Walk were also removed.
 - c. **Russell Trails** – George had reported by email that the loop and Buck Hill Spur had been cleared but that there were several spots where tall grass needed mowing. There was also an area muddy enough to require puncheons.

4. To-do List for Summer –

- a. **La Platte Headwaters Town Forest Area** – Lenore will check with Ray to see if he has been in contact with the Hinesburg Land Trust (HLT) regarding his building a Kiosk for the Lewis Creek Rd trailhead. Laminated signs also need to be replaced. Oren asked if someone could fill in the cavities left by screws below the wood line, so water won't hasten deterioration. Lenore offered to replace the signs and fill the screw holes.
 - b. **Russell Trail** – She will also find out from Ray the progress of the bridge under construction on the Russell Trail. The Overlook trail at Russell needs a fallen tree removed but it will require a chain saw.
 - c. **Hinesburg Town Forest** – Chic noted that tall grass was impeding the Eagles trail at Economou. Oren suggested putting puncheon on Eagle trail off the Economou before the Homestead intersection.
 - d. **Passing the Buck** – This trail needs mowing. Lenore will contact Greg Cluver, who had volunteered to work on that trail, to see if he can do the mowing.
 - e. **Geprags** - Additional HART blazes are needed on the NW spur.
5. **Geprags Mowing** – The flat field areas were done on Nat'l trails, however, less accessible areas still need work. Lenore will liaise with the CC.
6. **Dog Waste and Control** – These issues continue to be a problem. Jane reviewed the town ordinance which deals with both cleaning up after dogs and keeping them under control. She reported that there are fines for infractions, of up to \$100. Lenore will ask George to pursue this issue and perhaps write an article, including the fact that there are fines, for the September issue.
7. **July 4th Parade** – The TC will not be marching this year due to the fact that so few members will be able to participate.
8. **Record Articles** – Lenore is writing the August article and will check with George about the September issue.
9. **July Meeting** – Lenore suggested, and those of us attending agreed, that we skip the meeting in July since several of the members will be out of town.
10. **Select Board Meeting Tomorrow night** – Lenore will attend the meeting tomorrow to see the full presentation of the Richmond Road Scoping Study. Chic's interview for membership in the TC is also on the agenda.
11. **Use of the SCHIP Grant Money** – We had compiled a list of tools that we could use on various projects months ago, but now that we have received the grant to cover that expense, Lenore will circulate that list to see if we have other needs at this later date.

12. Extra Pallets – Oren noted that Smoke and Cure has offered pallets. He will check to see if any are usable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting is August 17th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary