



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2016

- Approved 10/19/16 -

**Present:** Ray Mainer, Jane Sheldon, Peter Modley, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, and Stewart Pierson

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

- 1. Additions to the Agenda** - Peter mentioned that the Russell Overlook trail needs to have a fallen tree limb, now hanging over the trail, removed. This will require a chain saw.
- 2. Minutes** – Sue made a motion to accept the minutes from the August meeting, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 3. Budget** – Stewart reported that since the last meeting the brush cutter has been purchased, which brings our total available funds to \$1113.64.
- 4. Update on Trail Maintenance** – Chic has put the new brush cutter to good use. Since its purchase he has cut back the vegetation hanging over the first bridge beyond the kiosk on the Russell Trail, cleared tall grass at the Economou entrance to the Eagles Trail and cleared the Geprags' "Northwest Passage" trail. Jane requested he check the end of the main loop in the Northeast corner of Geprags, where stalky weeds tend to fall and block the trail.
- 5. Bissonette Loop** – Oren and Susan had found a long, wet section at the northern end of the loop. Considering how dry it has been this summer it appears that this is an ongoing problem which may be solved with puncheons. There was another section that could be rerouted. Sue suggested these two areas could be used for National Trails Day projects. She also reported that the other trails in the LaPlatte Headwater systems were in very good condition, and credited Peter VanVranken and his neighbors who volunteer their time.
- 6. Russell Trail** – James Donegan is putting in a cattle trail, but which will not affect public access.
- 7. Ravine Trail** – Jane reported that Lenore and Josh Ryan from Timber and Stone LLC had met to assess the trail that crosses the ravine in the Hinesburg Land Trust section of the LaPlatte Headwaters system. Josh agreed with our opinion that it would be quite a challenge to

construct the steps and bridge required to safely descend and ascend the gully, due to shifting soil and steep grade. Reroutes were investigated and none were considered optimal, but Josh will get back to Lenore with a proposal and cost estimate. Sue mentioned that she, Lenore and Peter VanVranken had flagged an alternate route at one time but it too had its problems.

- 8. Dog Ordinance** – The discussion was tabled until next meeting since George was unable to attend tonight.
  
- 9. Sleepy Hollow Connector** – Peter reported that the landowner of the parcel that splits the Sleepy Hollow sections, is not willing to grant HART trail access to hikers. Peter explained that we could use existing dirt roads, specifically the access road to Sleep Hollow, known as Ski Lodge Drive, Sherman Hollow Road, and Magee Hill Road, in order to make the connection to Pond Brook Road, but it would be so much better to stay in the woods.
  
- 10. Fall Festival** – The Town Forest Committee and Trails Committee will staff an information table once again this year. Stewart will set up the table and bring the large maps as well as smaller ones to hand out. Jane will bring the banners. Jane and Sue offered to help cover some unstaffed time in the afternoon.
  
- 11. Officer Nominations** – Next month the committee will be nominating and voting on officers from the current membership.
  
- 12. The Record** – Stewart is writing the article for the October issue (due October 4<sup>th</sup>) and Sue will write the one for December issue (due November 15<sup>th</sup>).

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

The next meeting is scheduled for October 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary