



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2017

- Approved 2/16/17 -

Present: Ray Mainer, Jane Sheldon, Peter Modley, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Stewart Pierson, Oren Guttman, and Lenore Budd

Guests: Alex Weinhagen, Kyle Bostwick, Gil Coates

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

- 1. Access to Bissonette Rec Field Update** – Lenore had asked Alex to attend tonight’s meeting to update us on the status of the Bissonette Rec Field and the Trail Committee’s (TC) responsibilities to ensure pedestrian/bike paths to it. Kyle reported that the motor access road is completed along with parking areas, but the playing fields would need to be seeded over the summer. The goal is to have the fields ready for use in the fall of this year. Alex alerted us to the fact that there is already a temporary easement for a path from Route 116 to the field following the north side of Patrick Brook. However, if it were to be created now, it would require walking north from Kinney Drug off the sidewalk, onto Route 116 to get across the brook. The developer of the Hinesburg Center is required to extend the sidewalk north of Kinney Drug and build a crossing west of Route 116, but is required to do so only as soon as there is a ped/bike path to connect to. Lenore and Alex will review the exact terms and location of the easement and the TC will work with other Town bodies to create the path in the spring and arrange for its maintenance. The town can then contact the developer with the request to construct the sidewalk/bridge access required.
- 2. Additional Access to Bissonette Rec Field** – Other ped/bike access routes to the field were discussed, including the road for cars from Shelburne Falls Road, the current VAST trail and the proposed 20’ Rec Path Easement connecting to Farmall Drive. These are longer term projects. Kyle is a co-owner of Lot 31, currently undeveloped behind and to the west of the Creekside houses. He requested that the Rec Path Easement not cross the lot when extended, but rather follow the route of the existing VAST trail so as not to bisect the lot. Lenore mentioned that where the easement is located on the map is to avoid flood zone areas, but that the request will certainly be taken into consideration as this project moves forward.
- 3. Minutes** – Sue made a motion to accept the draft minutes from last month’s meeting, Ray seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Budget** – We currently have \$958.04 available funds, after several smaller expenses in November. Stewart requested an allocation of \$15 to purchase more rope for the Ravine Trail, which was granted.
5. **Prioritizing Projects/Expenditures Through June** – Lenore provided a list of some projects we had discussed in the past and asked that we add to them so we could plan our expenditures. Oren asked about the Mill Street project, whether George had gotten permission to have the old car removed from there. Lenore said that Ann Thomas (HHS) is supposed to do deed research to determine whether there is legal public access from Mill Street to the mill site. Peter offered to liaise with Ann, and with Missy if needed. Lenore asked that we all keep track of projects as we think of them so they can be added to the list at the next meeting.
6. **Ravine Trail** – Stewart asked if anyone had used the rope he installed on the trail and whether they thought it helped. Sue commented that she was there when it was very icy and was required to go off trail. Ray thought it helped when he was there on a muddy day. Stewart plans to extend the rope across the brook to connect the two rope “railings.”
7. **Dog Ordinance** – George had reported via email that he attended the Select Board meeting where the changes were being discussed and made the request to include “public trails” along with rec paths and sidewalks. Peter suggested posting a summary of the ordinance, as it pertains to control of dogs and their waste, at each trailhead. Lenore agreed this can be done if and when the changes pass.
8. **Town Capital Budget** – Lenore reported that lack of bike/ped accommodations of Shelburne Falls, Richmond, and Charlotte Roads, and Silver Street are real hindrances to the fulfilling the Committee's mission of creating an interconnected network of trails, sidewalks, and unpaved roads. While feasibility studies have been done for Richmond Road and Silver Street, securing construction funds is a real challenge. She has started to explore the possibility of having such projects included in the Town's capital improvement plan. Alex pointed out that there are many other projects requiring funding through this mechanism. Lenore will gather more info on the construction estimates for the various road shoulder and sidewalk projects and the % local match required by various possible construction grant sources. She suggested that we become advocates for the bike/ped projects and make our priorities known to the Select Board. Peter suggested that we think about our priorities and bring them to the next meeting. Sue expressed interest in seeing the study done for Silver Street.
9. **Record Articles** – Oren has submitted the article for the January 26th issue, Chic is writing the one for the February 23rd issue (due February 9th) and Stuart offered to write one for the March 23rd issue (due March 9th).

10. Other Business – Jane said that she was reluctant to restock the maps at the two Hayden Hill kiosks due to very icy conditions. She asked that anyone using those entrances to the Hinesburg Town Forest report to her if the map count was low. Otherwise she would wait until the parking areas were safer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary