



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461  
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

---

### Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2017

*(Postponed one week due to weather)*

- Approved 4/19/17 -

**Present:** Ray Mainer, Jane Sheldon, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Stewart Pierson, Lenore Budd

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

- 1. Minutes** – Sue made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the January meeting, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – Since the last meeting no more expenses have occurred so our available funds remain at \$940.64.
- 3. Purchasing of Trail Tools** – Lenore reviewed the list of tools we had discussed purchasing and we decided that she would purchase those 7 totaling \$397.
- 4. Other Upcoming expenses** – Sue reported that Peter VanVranken would need 6” x 6” lumber for the puncheons planned for the Bissonette loop. The supply stored near HCS should be sufficient. Peter V also hopes to get free boards from NRG. We will also need material for puncheons on the Russell Trails. Lenore will check with Oren to see if he can get us a cost estimate for these two projects in the event that we need to purchase materials. Ray offered to do this if Oren can’t.
- 5. Geprags Mowing** – Currently the Conservation Commission (CC) pays to have the fields at Geprags mowed, however, Jane said that she thought that the CC had decided to not mow them anymore. In that case we would need to make sure that the trails in the fields were mowed. Ray reported that his mower is stored in Geprags’ shed and he would do the mowing as soon as it was dry enough and the vegetation warranted it.
- 6. LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF)** – Craig Chevrier, landowner adjacent to the parking area on Gilman Road has had issues with hikers’ dogs coming onto his property. He had been invited to this meeting to discuss solutions but was unable to attend. Sue has posted new signs

at that entrance, on the kiosk and the entrance to the field, as well as coming out of the woods, to warn hikers to keep their dogs leashed in the parking area.

**7. VT Gas Compensation Money** – Several ideas of productive ways to use some of the \$250,000 that may become available to the Town, including construction of the Bissonette playing fields, were discussed. The TC will recommend to the Select Board that \$125,000 of these funds be invested and the income be used for stewardship of all town-owned lands, including but not limited to such projects as trail and sidewalk maintenance, waste control, marking property boundaries, controlling invasive species and signage. We feel this suggestion fulfills our criteria of helping the most people, having a long lasting value, and improving recreation and/or education.

**8. Spring/Summer Events**

- a. Lenore will be leading a bird walk on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> (rain date Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>) in Geprags Park
- b. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sue offered to publicize this event and collect names of volunteers. Lenore offered to be the coordinator of project teams on the day.
- c. Story Walk – Lenore suggested we team up with Annette’s Preschool again. Sue offered to contact them to see if they are interested.
- d. Chic suggested a trail run and will liaise with Oren to discuss this possibility.

**9. Haystack Crossing** – In preparation for opening up the trail between the Bissonette playing fields and Route 116, Lenore will contact Joe Bissonette of Haystack Crossing, LLC (the landowner) to remind him about the easement and requesting permissions for TC members to go out on the land. Chic will research prices for posts to mark the route.

**10. Passing the Buck Trail** - Landowner Susan Mead has agreed to donate a trail easement to the town. This easement document is awaiting review by a town attorney. Stewart and Julie Pierson have agreed, in principle, to donate a trail easement to the town. Details of the easement document are still being worked out.

**11. Website** – Sue showed us the Adventures Close to Home brochure posted on the website. It currently does not have room to add the new trails. We could delete some text and delete or resize the HART blaze graphic or print it on legal size paper. Sue will review it again at the April meeting.

**12. Other Business**

- a. Lenore suggested that we approach local health facilities (Dee PT, Brookside Health and UVM Center on Shelburne Falls Road) to see if they would be willing to provide space where we could leave HART maps for their clients. Stewart offered to follow up with these groups and Jane will add the locations to her map refill route if successful.

- b. Jane asked about the Parker easement on Pond Brook Road. Lenore reported that VT Land Trust has conserved the property and the landowners have donated a trail easement to the town. When it gets higher up the priority list, the TC can construct a trail on this property.

**13. Record Articles** - Jane will write the one for April (due 4/13), Lenore will do May's (due 5/11) and George will do June's (due 6/15).

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

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary