



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2017

- Approved 5/17/17 -

Present: Lenore Budd, Oren Guttman, Chic McArthur, Stewart Pierson, and Sue Rusten

Visitor: Rob Goodwin

Meeting called to order: 7:10 p.m.

1. **Minutes** - March 22nd Moved by Stewart, seconded by Chic with no objections.
2. **Budget update** presented by Lenore. Recent expenditures were for tools. Chic has agreed to store these at his place. Balance remains of \$547.29. This must be spent by the end of June. Further supplies may be need to be purchased for Trails Day.
3. **Update on tools purchase** - Lenore reported on specific tools that have been purchased. These include 2 McLeod rakes, 2 adze hoes, 2 pick mattocks, and 1 post-hole digger.
4. **Coordination with Conservation Commission** on 5/9/17. To discuss the management plan and how that might impact trails. George and Jane agreed to attend. Stewart expressed interest in attending as well.
5. **Adding proposed trails to town-wide official map.** The Planning Commission is considering expanding the current map to include the entire town and trails. Chic asked why the official map only included the village. Lenore did not know the answer. On our map (#13) many of our trails are conceptual and no precise routes are clear. Lenore suggested that Peter might be a good candidate to connect with PC as this project evolves.
6. **Sue presented minor changes to Website** in the “Notes” areas, As regards dogs, we may have to change wording depending on what the Select Board does with the dog ordinance. Our signs should reflect this. For the brochure, Oren will add the new trail to the map he had created. Lenore gave Sue material that she had – including thumb drive with text. She mentioned that Aaron had already made some changes to the web page for trails.
7. **National Trails Day - June 3, 2017**
 - Chic and Oren will be out of town. Lenore asked Rob if he's willing to help. We will need to build puncheon on Russell Trail section as well as LaPlatte Headwaters. Peter van Vranken will oversee the LaPlatte work. Oren will get the materials to the work site on the Russell Trail. Discussion ensued about strategies for wet section. Rob suggested benching. The idea of getting crushed stone to the site was reintroduced as well as possible rerouting. Oren will

take another look at the section to help reach a decision. Other possible tasks include work on Eagle's Trail (NE section). Sue and Lenore will do reconnaissance. Also mentioned was improving Class 4 road section to divert a stream. On second thought, Lenore pointed out that it takes a long time to get to the trail and back. For this reason, this might not be appropriate for a Trails Day task. Oren also suggested rerouting the steep section of the Overlook Trail on the Russell Property. Oren will ask James Donegan for okay and flag the trail. Lenore also pointed out a section near the beginning of the trail that needs to be leveled out. We will revisit tasks at our May meeting.

8. **Upcoming Events - Story walk** – Sue reported that she and Maria from Annette's Preschool plan to have the story up from May 12-22 in Geprags. Chic offered to pick up the book from the library in Montpelier. Lenore will do a bird walk on May 13. Oren and Chic are organizing the Fun Run. They raised a question about a waiver. Oren offered to create a draft based on what he has seen at other races. They will check with Donegan family to ask permission to use Russell Trails (June 10th or 17th) and to check with the church for parking. They plan to appeal to local businesses for prizes. There will be no charge to participants. Several loops are proposed; shorter for kids and longer for adults. They plan to hold this event rain or shine.
9. **Update on Select Board** - Changes to the dog ordinance were not discussed at the 4/17 meeting, but it will be on an upcoming agenda. The Select Board reached the decision to allot the VG settlement as follows: \$190,000 to Bissonette playing fields and \$60,000 toward stewardship of public lands.
10. **Progress on NE Quadrant Trails** - Lenore shared map. It was suggested that the town line be eliminated. She has been putting up blazes. When the trail dries out, she will return. The Ski Lodge Drive is included as well.
11. **Record Articles** - Lenore is doing May article and George is responsible for June.

Other Business:

- Stewart and Julie removed tree from Geprags trail.
- Lenore assigned tasks from our task list to particular committee members. Orin suggested adding the tasks discussed for NTD. It was agreed that periodic review of the list helps to keep us on track and that we add and subtract as needed.
- Chic raised concerns about the number of dog waste bags at the bridge off Mechanicsville Road which revived the idea of the town providing receptacles for waste disposal at that site and possibly near the Russell Trail entrance. It was deemed best to raise this issue when the Select Board meets to discuss the revisions to the dog ordinance. Lenore offered to follow up on this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rusten (filling in for Jane Sheldon, Secretary)