



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2017

- Approved 6/21/17 -

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

Guest: Rob Goodwin

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

1. **Minutes** – Jane made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the April meeting, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Since the last meeting Lenore bought some aluminum nails so our available funds are currently \$529.60.
3. **Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting** – George and Jane attended the May 9th CC meeting to discuss the responsibilities that the TC and CC have to maintain Geprags Park and to have input into the developing of the CC's management plan for that park. The CC agrees to get the TC input before the plan is finalized. The topic of dogs in the park was briefly brought up. George mentioned a few of the concerns which had been brought to the TC's attention. The CC agreed to include the issue in the management plan. Re responsibilities, it was agreed that, since the CC is now up to full membership numbers, it will take back the trail maintenance duties with the support of the TC when needed. The TC will continue advising when its expertise is required.
 - a. TC – Decisions on trail closures or rerouting, blazing, supplying maps to the kiosk
 - b. CC – Mowing fields and trails, maintaining the parking area (plowing, grading, trash removal), marking boundaries, maintaining/adding/removing printed materials on the kiosk (other than maps).

Peter reminded us that the trails in Geprags are part of the HART system so we still need to make sure they are well maintained.

Lenore reported that she had been in touch with the CC's new chair, Mike Bissonette, regarding the request for the CC to liaise with the man who is eager to fulfill his community service by working on a project in Geprags.

4. **Hinesburg Land Trust (HLT) Inspection of Gillespie Parcel** – On 5/10/17 Lenore walked the proposed re-route trail with members of the HLT Board, seeking their approval for this new

stretch of trail, thereby allowing closure of the eroded trail across the ravine. Paul Wieczoreck, of the HLT Board, expressed concerns about fragmentation of the forest and the impact of the trail on wildlife habitat. No decision was reached but the issue will be discussed at the June HLT Board meeting.

5. National Trails Day – Lenore reviewed all the logistics for the June 3rd workday. Six committee members and Rob will participate. All are available on Sunday, June 4 if we have to postpone because of weather. Lenore and Peter will post notices on FPF. Sue Rusten will alert our volunteer list and take RSVPs. Jane will purchase pizza and drinks. Lenore will purchase cups, plates, napkins, and garbage bags and the following responsibilities were assigned:

a. Russell Trail – Led by George and Rob

- i. Oren will flag the re-route of the bottom section of the Overlook Trail in advance of NTD, after getting the go-ahead from James Donegan. Rob will supervise the cutting of this re-route on NTD.
- ii. George and volunteers will lop along the spur trail from Buck Hill Road West Trailhead.
- iii. Rob and volunteers will bench cut the section of trail that parallels the farm road.
- iv. Ray will take charge of installing board walk between the trailhead kiosk and the bridge.

b. LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest – Led by Peter VanVranken and Sue

- i. Install puncheon on the Bissonette Loop.
- ii. Peter V will obtain/purchase shingles, nails and lumber for volunteers to carry in on that day.

c. Geprags – Led by Jane and Peter

- i. Lopping on the connecting “red” trails
- ii. Survey the remaining trails for any other work needed.

Lenore will help wherever she is most needed.

6. Other Projects for Future Work Days - The Eagle’s Trail in the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) has several places that need work. Lenore did reconnaissance on 5/16/17 and suggested projects for later this season:

- a. Close a portion of the Eagle's Trail that parallels FOTW's Homestead Trail. This part of the Eagle's Trail is little-used and is muddy and steep. Lenore will check with the TFC and FOTW first.
- b. If the re-route is approved, replace the large maps in the three trailhead kiosks with updated versions.
- c. Place flat stepping stones at the first stream south of the intersection with Homestead. Oren offered to do this with Anthea.
- d. Post "no horse" signs at the appropriate locations. (There were hoof prints on Eagle's Trail.)

- e. Prune back brush and install water bars along entire stretch of Eagle's Trail from Homestead to Economou Road parking.
- f. Fix the railing on the bridge near the Economou trailhead.

Permission from the Town Forest Committee will be obtained before any work is done.

7. Update on Spring Events

- a. **Bird Walk** – Lenore reported that about 10 people came, and they were able to identify quite a few birds. The weather wasn't great but she will lead another walk next year.
- b. **Story Walk** – Sue reported that Chic picked up the book pages in Montpelier and that they were set up on posts in Geprags. They will remain available until 5/22. She has posted notices on Front Porch Forum.
- c. **Fun Run** – Chic suggested that rather than making this a timed event, e.g. a race, that it should be more of a community for all ages and refreshments afterward. Oren will discuss using the Russell Trails when he contacts James Donegan about the Overlook rerouting. The date would most likely be at the end of the summer or in the fall, when the temperatures would be more moderate.

8. **Northeast Quadrant** – Lenore reported that the NEQ Trail is officially open and will remain open through the end of October. She has blazed the trail from Magee Hill to Texas Hill with HART blazes. She is working with Alex to develop a trail map for the town website and the three trailheads. Sue will send the updated information to Oren so we can include the information in our brochure.

9. **Record Articles** – George is writing the article for June, due June 15th and Sue will write the one for August, due August 10th.

10. Other Business

- a. **July 4th Parade** – Jane asked how many TC members will be in town for that holiday and how many would be interested in participating in the parade. At least 5 are possibilities so we will confirm plans one way or the other at the June meeting. Jane will find out what this year's theme is.
- b. **The Town Dog Ordinance** - Lenore reported that the Select Board is focusing revisions on the issue of vicious dogs but the Select Board did agree to add the word "trails" to the list of public locations where dog owners will be responsible for picking up and properly disposing of dog feces. In the future they will consider other issues such as leashing and providing receptacles for dog feces.
- c. **Mill Street Project** - George asked that the Mill Street Project be put on the next meeting's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21st.

Respectfully Submitted, Jane Sheldon, Secretary