



Trails Committee

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

Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2017

- Approved 8/16/17 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Oren Guttman, George Dameron

Guest: Lynne Caulfield

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes – Chic made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the May meeting, George seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. Budget – Since the last meeting several more purchases have been made, mainly lumber for puncheons and bridge repairs, so the total funds remaining is \$47.85
3. Upcoming Year's Budget - Our FY2017 budget goes into effect July 1st at which time we will have \$750 to work with. The Economou Road extension and Buck Hill parking spaces may be contracted out which would require asking the Select Board for additional funding.
4. Mead Trail Easement - The Select Board has accepted the easement and it just needs to be signed by the town administrator and Susan Mead to be finalized.
5. Update on Ravine Trail Closing – The Hinesburg Land Trust (HLT) has approved the closing of the Ravine trail on their parcel in the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF). Lenore will pick a date and organize a crew to cut the new trail and close the old one.
6. Update on Eagle's Trail Work – Oren had organized a work party, which was able to clear brush and install stepping stones in a wet section off the Economou entrance, as well as rerouting the trail around two areas of mud and raspberry bushes.
7. Trail Project List
 - a. Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF)
 - i. Eagle's Trail Bridge -Ray has agreed to repair the railing.
 - ii. Economou Road entrance improvement – Peter will be asked to get estimates from an outside contractor.

- iii. Rerouting due to drainage between the bridges – Oren suggested that we should install puncheons rather than reroute due to wet areas all around. He will take a measurement to see how much lumber we will need. Any lopping between the bridges will be taken care of at that time.
 - iv. Clean out water bars – Sue and Jane offered to work on this. They will find a convenient date and see if anyone else would like to join them.
 - v. Still to be assigned – Remove blazes and close the abandoned portion of Eagle’s Trail; add blazes and improve drainage to Class IV road between Hayden Hill East and West entrances.
- b. Russell Trails
 - i. Install puncheon on muddy stretch on east side of property – Oren and Rob have offered to take the lead on this project.
 - ii. Install puncheon between kiosk and first bridge – Ray has offered to take on this project.
 - iii. Reroute the Overlook Trail – Oren had received permission from James Donegan and flagged a proposed reroute, but James wanted a slightly different route and will reflag.
 - iv. Benching the trail directly north of the bridge and farm road – Rob has offered to take the lead on this project
- c. Geprag’s
 - i. Mowing – Sue reported that she has been in contact with the Conservation Commission’s (CC) chairman, Mike Bissonette and that the CC is planning on meeting at the park tonight to mow and do trail maintenance. Sue will check in with Mike to see how much they were able to accomplish and if they need any additional support from the TC.
 - ii. Connectivity – Chic reported that he’d spoken to the owner of Travis’s Bar, and although he is looking to sell the property, is still unwilling to give us access on the property to connect Ballard’s corner with the Geprags trail system. This idea will be revisited whenever the property is sold.
 - iii. Kiosk materials – Jane will contact the CC to see if they are planning on putting any more material in the kiosk and to let them know that Lenore can provide them with information which is posted at other trailheads if needed.
- d. LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF)
 - i. Rerouting of Ravine Trail – Lenore will adjust the flagging to reflect the recent changes by the Hinesburg Land Trust (HLT). Sue and Peter VanVranken will take the lead in clearing the new trail and closing the old one.
 - ii. Rerouting on the Bissonette Loop – Sue suggested installing puncheons instead of rerouting, as the area is wet all around the problem area. Peter V has been obtaining lumber from NRG Systems. She also reported that Peter V had cleared downed trees on that loop.
 - iii. Hidden Meadow mowing – Peter V has done the mowing already this month.

- iv. North/South trail connection – Lenore had been in contact with the owners of the land where the TC would like to route a connection but they had asked for more time to consider the request. Lenore will arrange for Pat Mainer (chair of the Town Forest Committee), Select Board member Andrea Morgante and her to visit the owners again to see if they would reconsider.
 - v. Obtain easement from Joe Fallon – Joe is selling the property so has turned down our request to obtain an easement for the current trail. When the sale is finalized Lenore will contact the new owners.
 - vi. Re-routing around the Hemingway house – Sue and Oren have offered to scout out a possible reroute.
- e. Passing the Buck
- i. Easements – Susan Mead has agreed to our request for an easement and the paperwork is in progress. Stewart and Julie Pierson have already agreed and will approach the third landowner after the first two parties have formalized the agreement.
 - ii. High Rock Overlook – Lenore will scout out a trail which could lead to an overlook on this trail.
 - iii. Parking Lot – The town highway crew is stretched too thin to construct a parking lot where we have an easement any time soon. Peter Modley will be asked to get an estimate for an outside contractor to do the work.
- f. Northeast Quadrant – No work is needed on this new trail system.
- g. Other
- i. Include trails on town-wide official map – Lenore is working on it.
 - ii. Rec fields – We are waiting until the rec fields are finished and in use before we mow the connection from Route 116.
 - iii. Web site - Sue is working on it.
 - iv. Update trail brochure – Sue had provided the TC with a draft of the text for us to review and make suggestions. We are to send her any comments via email.
 - v. Mill site trail – George will continue to pursue this project with Ann Thomas.
 - vi. Carse easement – The town needs to get that finalized.
 - vii. Putting trail maps in medical offices –Stewart had offered to contact the medical facilities in town to see if they wanted to offer our brochure of hiking possibilities. He will report on his progress when he returns in September.
8. Restocking the Map Holders – Jane had asked if we could reassign some of these duties now that we have 3 more trailhead map holders to keep stocked. The new assignments are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Current Stocker</u>	<u>"New" Assignment</u>
Russell Trail - Lyman	Stewart/Jane (summer)	Stewart/George (summer)
Passing the Buck	N/A	
LaPlatte - Gilman Rd	Sue	Sue
LaPlatte - Lewis Creek	Sue	Sue
Geprags	Jane	George
HTF - HHE	Jane	Jane
HTF - HHW	Jane	Jane
HTF - Economou	Peter	Peter
NEQ - Texas Hill		Peter /Jane
NEQ - Magee Hill		Chic/Oren
NEQ - Sleepy Hollow		Chic/Oren

9. July 4th Parade – There are at least 5 people who will be in town and “eager” to march in the parade this year. The theme is “Mardi Gras.” Jane will register the group with the rec department (a new requirement this year) check out the cost of purchasing beads to wear, and alert everyone on where and at what time to meet on the day of the parade.
10. Story Walk – Sue has worked with Annette’s Preschool to set up another children’s event in Geprags starting tomorrow. The announcement was on tonight’s Front Porch Forum.
11. Fun Run – Oren has received approval from James Donegan to hold it in the Russell Trails. Chic and Oren will organize the event and plan to have it in September.
12. Record Articles – August’s is being written by Sue, Lenore offered to write the September article. Jane will ask Peter if he is interested in writing the one for October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19th. We are considering holding a workday instead. Lenore will contact everyone a week or two before the scheduled date to see which is preferred, work or meet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary