



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2017

- Approved 10/18/17 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Stewart Pierson, Oren Guttmann

Regrets: Ray Mainer, Sue Rusten, George Dameron, Lenore Budd

Guests: Howdy Russell; Jake Potter, Junior Scout (and others) - Boy Scouts; Kim Robbins, Leader (and others) - Girl Scouts

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

1. **Minutes** – Chic made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the June meeting, Peter seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – There have been no expenses since the last meeting, so available funds remain at \$750.
3. Howdy Russell attended to discuss some suggestions he had for maintaining the **Russell Trail System**. There were two areas of priority for him.
 - a. There is an area of about 500' which is very wet and hard to mow just along the southeast corner of the perimeter trail. Howdy asked if we could come up with a way to fix it by adding mulch, stone or boardwalk.
 - b. The spur trail from Buck Hill Road is overgrown with wild roses. We agreed to get some help to trim it as soon as possible.

Additionally he was finding it difficult to mow where there are puncheons. Chic agreed to weed-whack the areas when needed. Howdy agreed to alert Lenore and Jane whenever he saw something specific that needed attention.

Jane asked him about the parking area on Buck Hill that currently had bales of hay at the entrance. Howdy said that it was James' responsibility but was quite sure it was only temporary. He also mentioned that if the gate was ever open it meant that there would be no livestock in that field and hikers could use that access as well.

Howdy offered to see if he could get a group of frequent trail users to take responsibility lopping specific sections of the trail to help us. We are glad to get all the volunteers possible so he will be posting his idea on Front Porch Forum (FPF).

4. **Boy Scout Volunteer Offer** – Several Boy Scouts attended the meeting to offer their time in helping to maintain the trails. In particular Jake Potter wanted his time put toward conservation work, in order to reach the senior level in the scouts. The committee recommended that they contact Mike Bissonette of the Conservation Commission for specific projects in Geprags Park that would fit that need. Since they wanted to start this weekend, Jane pointed out several trails can connections that needed lopping in case Mike couldn't be reached in time.

5. **Girl Scouts** – Four Girl Scouts presented their research into bats and showed the work they had done building boxes for bats to roost safely. After explaining where the best habitat would be they asked for suggestions as to where they should place boxes in the town Trail System. They had already received permission from James Donegan for the Russell Trails. We suggested right after the first bridge behind the kiosk at the Lyman Field entrance. We also offered to work with them to post any educational materials they would like the public to see. Chic suggested another good place would be by Gillespie Pond in the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF). Jane pointed out they'd need to get permission from the Hinesburg Land Trust first. The TC found the presentation very interesting and informative, and thank the Girl Scouts for taking the time to attend.

6. **Update on Trail Projects** – Work Done Since Last Meeting
 - a. **Geprags** – Chic had been in touch with Bob Marks re the Hill Spur Trail and was planning on weed whacking it since the Conservation Commission had not been able to get to it. However, he found that it had been mowed when he went there, and subsequently saw the Front Porch Forum posting by Bob that indicated he had done it.
 - b. **Passing the Buck** – Peter reported that he has learned that there had been a previous plan drawn up for the parking area on Buck Hill and he has been in touch with Mike Anthony of the Highway Dept to find it. The information in it can be used to get bids from contractors in order to construct an area to park.
 - c. Economou Road Entrance to **Hinesburg Town Forest** (HTF) – Chic has offered to contact the town of Huntington to investigate how much help they can give us to level off the extension to the kiosk at that entrance.
 - d. **LHTF** – Chic reported that he had returned to the reroute around the ravine and removed the tape marking the new route, now that Lenore has thoroughly blazed the new trail. He mentioned that he moved some more branches on one side to ensure the old route was not used, and was happy to see that the path that the work crew had raked clear was obviously being used.

7. **Update on Fall Events** – The only event planned is the Fun Run, which Chic and Oren have set for the Saturday of Columbus Weekend, the 7th. Chic will check with St. Jude Church to make sure there is no event there that day so we can use the parking lot and he will post the event on FPF. *(Subsequently, date was postponed and is TBD.)*

8. **Map Restocking Responsibility** – Jane reviewed the assignments as outlined in the June minutes. Those of us at the meeting agreed to continue restocking our locations. Jane will check with Sue and George to see if they too are willing.

9. **Record Articles** – Lenore wrote the one for the September issue. Peter will write October's (due October 12) and Jane will write the one for November (due November 16). Jane pointed out that the TC was prominent in the centerfold lay-out of the July 4th parade photos in the August issue, plus Ray made the front page!

10. **Other Business** – Jane congratulated Stewart on his 80th birthday, though it turns out it was actually in June, so he is 80.5! Cupcakes were provided to celebrate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary