



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2017

- Approved 10/15/17 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Stewart Pierson, Lenore Budd, George Dameron, Sue Rusten, Ray Mainer

Regrets: Oren Guttman

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

1. **Minutes** – Peter made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the September meeting, Stewart seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – There have been no expenses since the last meeting, so available funds remain at \$750. Lenore reviewed the memo from the Conservation Commission (CC) which suggested all town committees request funding in the upcoming town budget for a joint assistant, who would take on several of the committees' duties. We decided the Trails Committee (TC) did not need any additional help, except perhaps for grant writing. Lenore suggested that we see if Renae could add this task to the description of Asst Town Manager in her hiring search.

3. Updating Trail Projects

a. Russell Trails

- i. Howdy Russell had requested help alleviating **wet areas in the SW corner** of the loop. Lenore offered to scout it out to see what's needed.
- ii. Peter will contact James to meet about posting a **hiker's sign at the Buck Hill** parking area.
- iii. **Sullivan trail needs drainage work.** Lenore will try to firm up a work plan and also try to recruit some Thistle Hill residents to help maintain the Sullivan Trail.
- iv. Someone left a note on the white board in the meeting room which said there was a **broken board** on, what we guessed is, the puncheon. Stewart will take a look and if needed Ray will fix.
- v. George will scout **hanging branches** that need to be cut with power saw

b. Geprags

- i. Schuyler Jackson has asked if his **mower** was still in the shed. Ray says it had been given to him (Ray) from Bill Piper. Lenore will go with Schuyler to check the condition of the mower and determine ownership.

- ii. **Kiosk Signs** – Jane will check to see if the CC has added any new material to the kiosk, e.g. trail rules.
 - iii. **Relocating Perimeter Trail** – Bob Hyams wants to have the CC vote on the reroute before work on it starts.
- c. **Town Forest Economou Road Entrance** - Peter said he tracked down Mike Anthony to discuss the email he had sent detailing the need for repair. Mike had not seen the message so Peter will follow up with him. Ray will ask Pat Mainer if there has been any discussion of this project with the Town Forest Committee.
- d. **Buck Hill Road Parking** - Mike Anthony dropped off the plans for this project dated 2010 with Lenore. Peter had talked to Nils Smith about bidding on this project, but Nils brought up the issue of legal problems with liability, if construction is not done by town road crews. Lenore reported that there are grants available from the Vermont Recreational Trails Program which would pay 80% if the town agreed to pay the remaining 20%. The pre-application is due December 1. The full grant application is due February 1. For the purpose of submitting the initial estimate by the December deadline, Peter offered to get ballpark estimates based on the 2010 plans from two outside contractors. He suggested adding costs to clear/chip the broken branches in the area. Lenore will also see if she can get an estimate from Mike Anthony. The Select Board will need to authorize the town's portion of the cost before we proceed with the grant application.
- e. **Northeast Quadrant** – No more action needs to be taken on the signs at Sleepy Hollow. The HART trail through Sleepy Hollow will be shut down for the winter as of October 31st.
- f. **Laplatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF)**
 - i. **Bissonnette Loop** – Sue reported that NRG had offered to provide wood for puncheon. Peter Van Vranken is following up but we may need to purchase the material. Chic says the loop needs to be re-blazed as the entrance is hard to find. Sue offered to replace a sign that had been there and to make the blazes more noticeable.
 - ii. Peter V. has mowed **Hidden Meadow**.
 - iii. **Horse Traffic** – A Monkton resident called Lenore about horseback riding in the LHTF because TrailFinder.com indicated that horseback riding is allowed there but signs at the trailheads indicate that horseback riding is not permitted. Lenore explained that horses are not allowed on the state wildlife management area in the center of the trail network and that Trail Finder's information is incorrect. The woman was understanding and will look for horse trails elsewhere. Chic offered to contact the web site to correct the information and check for any other errors. Sue offered to post a notice on Front Porch Forum because there were other indications on trails that there had been horse traffic where it wasn't permitted.
- g. **Passing the Buck** – Stewart and neighbors will do lopping on the east/west portion. Stewart and Julie have given the trail easement and Stewart will approach additional landowners to do the same.

- h. Mill Street** - George and Peter will meet with Ann Thomas to see if there is a workable entrance to the historical mill ruins from the town cemetery and if so if a bridge can be constructed to enable access.

- 4. High Rock Trail** Scouting discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

- 5. Events** – Chic said he will try again in the spring to organize a Fun Run or some other community event to promote use of the HART trails.

- 6. Record Articles** – Peter has submitted the article for the October issue, Jane will write one for November and George will take care of January. Lenore is tentative for February, pending travel plans.

The meeting was adjourned 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary