



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2018

- Approved 5/16/18 -

**Present:** Jane Sheldon, Stewart Pierson (7:25 p.m.), George Dameron (7:25 p.m.), Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer (7:35 p.m.)

**Regrets:** Lenore Budd

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

1. **Minutes** – Chic made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Oren seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Town Forest Management Plan – Views** - The draft of this plan is now on the town website. Peter passed out excerpts from page 7. One point was regarding plans to open some views in the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF), specifically *“Designate and map a limited number of key viewpoints in the HTF. Prune designated overlooks with the goal of maintaining vistas while retaining a naturalized feel.”* Peter suggested that the Trails Committee (TC) take some responsibility in keeping all invested parties moving toward that goal. He made a motion *“That the TC will propose to the Town Forest Committee (TFC) that we would like to participate in the choice of viewpoints on or off the trails.”* The motion was passed unanimously. Peter offered to be the liaison with the TFC and the TFC Steering Committee. Oren will contact the consultants to retrieve the maps of potential sites that Peter had brought to the review meeting.
3. **Town Forest Management Plan – Signage** - Chic brought up another point that the TC should get involved with as well, that of updating signs in the HTF to minimize confusion in the more path-congested areas.
4. **National Trails Day**
  - a. **Russell Trails** – We reviewed the various projects for this area and determined that only one of the projects would require purchasing materials, that of putting in a puncheon on the wet section of the northeast corner of the perimeter trail. This work would also require a tractor or utility vehicle to move the material to the site. Ray will investigate, and report back at the May meeting, what needs to be purchased and what the cost will be. He also agreed to be the leader of the volunteers at that site that day.

- b. LaPlatte Headwaters** – Sue will check with Peter VanVranken to see if he feels there is any need to obtain materials for the puncheon to be added to the consistently wet portion of the Bissonette Loop.
  - c. Geprags** – Lenore may have flagged the reroute in the northeast section of the main trail where private property comes close and where the owners have had complaints. We will find out when she comes back from her New Zealand adventure and, if she has, we can add that project to that day's work if needed.
- 5. Meeting with VT Audubon (VA)** – Sue attended a meeting focused on mapping habitat for the Golden-winged warbler in our area. Geprags is being managed to maintain this habitat and the VA is conducting an event in Geprags Park highlighting the Golden Winged Warbler on Saturday, May 19th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. They also plan on netting and banding birds. The rain date is the next day, Sunday the 20th.
- 6. Old Home Week** – Chic had discussed with Frank Twarog (Chair of the Recreation Commission), our idea of holding a community historical location walk in conjunction with the Hinesburg Historical Society (HHS), but since then has learned that Ann Thomas of the HHS will not be available to lead it. He asked George if he would be willing to be the leader, with his background as historian and lecturer. George said he would and will contact Ann for whatever material she had offered to use. We are still aiming for holding it Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> with time TBD. Chic will let Frank know that we plan on moving ahead with this event.
- 7. Budget** – We spent \$50 last month to renew our license with the VT Fish and Wildlife agency, so our available funds now total \$638.
- 8. Other**
  - a.** Peter mentioned that Dee PT will be willing to put out our Adventures Close to Home brochure at their facility here in town. Stewart also was able to put it at the town library.
  - b.** The adult program leader at the library asked if we could do some adult event there relating to the HART trails. George might consider doing a talk on the history of the town forest. We will discuss this, and any other ideas which may arise, at the May meeting.
  - c.** Rec Field Path – Jane reported that she saw a posting on Front Porch Forum that the opening of the rec fields is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>, but that she did not think the field where the path from Route 116 would go would be dry enough by then to lay down the route. She will contact Alex and Jen tomorrow to discuss this issue.
  - d.** Sue mentioned that she's received a realtor's promo postcard about property for sale on Silver Street that advertised that the land abutted the LaPlatte Headwater (LH) trail system, which was available for horseback riding. Since horses are prohibited from LH area Sue will contact the realtor and tell him/her that it should not be advertised as such.

9. **Record Article** – Jane is writing the May article on trail etiquette, and asked if there was anything else besides the obvious (take out trash and dog waste, leave everything untouched, be aware of where not to ride horses or ATV's) which TC members wanted included. If so they are to let her know when she circulates the article for review, or before.

The meeting was adjourned 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary