



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2018

- Approved 9/19/18 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley

Regrets: Stewart Pierson, George Dameron, Ray Mainer

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

- 1. Minutes** – Oren made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting, Sue seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – There have been no expenses since the fiscal year budget began so our available funds total \$750.
- 3. Snow Beaver Request** – The snowmobile club Snow Beavers is requesting that they be allowed to use part of the Eagle's Trail in the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) (from Hayden Hill West to Economou Road) for their winter use. Lenore passed out maps of the proposed routes. We discussed some pros (winter trail grooming, potential plowing of trailhead parking areas, potential improvements to trail water bars and potential year-round trail connectivity) and cons (noise, air quality, safety and wildlife impact) and someone (Jane and/or Peter and/or Chic) from the Trails Committee (TC) will try to attend the Town Forest Committee (TFC) meeting on September 13th to present these thoughts. It will ultimately be the TFC's decision.
- 4. Planned Logging in the HTF** – Lenore reported that Ethan Tapper, Town Forester, is working on sending out an RFP to contractors and hopes to get logging done this winter. Lenore had been in touch with him to ask that the Economou Road spur to the trail head parking lot be improved during any logging operations. Jane asked if the parking lot itself could be upgraded as there were roots and rocks protruding that made it difficult to negotiate in and out. Lenore said she'd touch base with Ethan to ask. In response to Lenore's question about leaving slash on the trails, Ethan had responded saying, "Slash is often used to stabilize wet portions of logging trails and then left on site to decompose." However, Lenore stated that at least regarding recreational trails in the Green Mountain National Forest, contractors had been instructed to remove slash from trails so this remains an item to discuss with Ethan as the logging contract is drawn up. Oren suggested that we mark the trails the loggers planned on cutting near with highly visible

tape so they could be sure that they knew where the trails were on snow covered areas where trails might not be discernable in the winter. Ethan will be giving a talk on August 21st at the library explaining forest management, and a walk in the HTF on September 29th. Hopefully someone from the TC can attend these.

5. **Official Town Map** – Lenore, Sue and Jane attended the Planning Commission (PC) meeting to present our proposed new trail routes and discuss which should be included on the Official Town Map. After discussion, the consensus was that there was no benefit to putting on any outside the Village since those were just “point A to point B” type ideas and no specific routes had been scoped. The PC will work on strengthening language in the subdivision regulations to promulgate the trail vision laid out in Town Plan Map 13. development.
6. **Fall Task List** – We discussed the most immediate needs.
 - a. **Geprags** – There is a tree down over the perimeter trail. Oren will remove it. Bill Marks mentioned trees were also down on the North East spur trail. Chic will check to see the extent of the work needed when he brush cuts that trail and then liaise with Bill.
 - b. **Buck Hill** – In the PC meeting we attended, James Donegan had mentioned he did not see any blazes on the Class IV portion of the Buck Hill E/W connection. Lenore said that she had put them up and Oren said he’d seen some. Jane offered to check on them this weekend and replace any that may have fallen off.
7. **Access to Geprags Park from Library** – The possibility of extending the sidewalk on Shelburne Falls Road past Pleasant View Lane and cutting a new trail from there to Geprags was discussed. Since there are other sidewalk projects already in the queue Peter asked if a foot path could be constructed on the road easement as a temporary fix. Lenore will investigate that idea. In the meantime she and Chic will scout a new route from Shelburne Falls Road to the existing perimeter trail in Geprags.
8. **Thank You Letters** – TC members signed the several thank you letters being sent to landowners who graciously allow trails on their land or who have donated easements.
9. Lenore had sent out a flyer detailing the upcoming **VT Outdoor Recreation Conference** in Fairlee, VT. She will be attending and encourage others to join her.
10. **Record Articles** – Jane has submitted the article for the August issue, Oren is writing one for September, Chic for October and Sue for November.
11. **Grants for Class IV Road Improvements** – Jane asked if anyone else had seen the clip on the local news about grants for Class IV improvements, as she had missed most of the details. No one had any information so she will investigate if we might be able to get some funds for the Hayden Hill E/W connection. Peter mentioned that there may be other grants available, e.g. Outdoor Gear Exchange has awarded grants for recreational improvements.

12. Number of Miles of Trails – Chic asked if the 30+ miles of trails in Hinesburg was the most for any town in VT. Lenore said she'd investigate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35. The next meeting will be held on September 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary