Hinesburg Trails Committee

Minutes of October 20, 2021 Meeting

Approved

Present: Jane Sheldon, Colin Hunt, Chic McArthur, Ray Mainer, Bret Golan, Peter Modley, Oren Guttmann

Regrets: Nick Certo, Chris Rivard

Guests: Mitch Cypes, Anne Donegan, Howdy Russell

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

1. Minutes -Peter made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 15 meeting, Bret seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. Russell Trail Parking Area – Mitch explained that our request to expand the parking area off Buck Hill Rd was more complicated than just getting a contractor. There are issues with property boundary lines and easements. Some of the agreements have been informal and suggested we get the easements recorded with the land records at Town Hall. He offered to visit the site but, in the meantime, he suggested we codify the agreement with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT).
3. Changing Easement on Russell Trail – Ann and Howdy showed a map of their request to the DRB to expand an easement from 30’ to 50’ to the east of existing property. It will overlap the easement provided by the VLT. They asked if we would approve of this change. It does not affect access to the hiking trails. Oren made a motion that we tell the VLT that the Trails Committee is amenable to the Russell Family Trust seeking this change, Colin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Budget – The expenses for the Russell Trail Turnpike were $367 so we currently have $633 left in our budget through June 30, 2022. Oren suggested, and we agreed, that we ask for $1500 for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2022 to cover some bridge construction being planned.
5. Town Website Info re Trails and Dog Rules – Oren had a request from a resident to update the website to make it easier to find information, especially regarding rules relating to dogs. Bret suggested we refer her to the Dog Ordinance. Jane mentioned that since the site has been updated it is not as easy to find official documents. Bret will check the site to see how easy it is to find the ordinance. Bret also suggested that we put up signage at the trailheads that emphasize the 3 or 4 most important trail rules, so they do not get overlooked in the much longer list.
6. Baldwin Rd Extension and Bridge – Ray had been mowing the trail along the Halsmer property and has even been able to reach around the curve at Leavensworth, though found the ground too wet to connect with the Eddy easement. In doing so he has scoped out the stream over which we will need to build a bridge. The estimated cost for doing so is $400-$500. Oren would like to get this project done in the next few weeks and will work with Ray to get the materials and organize a work party. Jane mentioned that we may need to add a handrail if the height over the water is over a certain length. Colin made a motion to appropriate up to $600 for this project, Jane seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. Oren also mentioned that he spoke to Todd and we do not need to have a crosswalk painted on Charlotte Rd over to Leavensworth, but we will need to put up pedestrian crossing signs. We now need to come up with a name for this new addition to the HART system.
7. Eddy Easement Update – Peter reported that he stays in touch with David Eddy. David has filed an official subdivision survey with the town which also delineates a 20-foot-wide trail easement paralleling Charlotte Road, but he has not yet addressed final wording and filing of the draft easement document which Peter gave him. Peter will continue to contact him from time to time.
8. Bissonnette Rec Field Pump Track – Oren connected Mike Webster, Rec Commission member, via phone. Mike is proposing that a bike track be constructed on the side of the rec field for kids who are not participating on the sports field to have something to do. We reviewed his proposed location and are fine with this idea since it does not interfere with any pedestrian or VAST access. Oren noted that other than checking location this project is outside of TC’s mandate, but would be willing to help recruit volunteers for its construction.
9. Town Logging – Colin reported that he removed the blazes off the trees from Economou to Hayden Hill East, where the logging is going to take place this winter. He will check with Pat Mainer to see if the Town Forest Committee has “Trail Closed” signs. If not will put up some laminated ones.
10. Meeting in the Park – Jane reported that she attended the planning meeting for the development of the lots behind the Fire Dept and has recommended diagonal walkways on both areas. The final design is TBD.
11. Membership Vacancies – Oren reported that Chris has decided to resign, as he has too many other commitments at work and home. Oren still has not been able to get ahold of Nick to ask him to officially resign. He suggested that we ask the Select Board to remove him so we could recruit a replacement. He will check with Joy as to this possibility. Jane also announced that her term is ending at the close of this year and will not be renewing her membership. As a result we currently have one vacancy and will have two more by January 1st. As of now, we only have one qualified person interested so we need to post the openings on FPF and in The Record.
12. Laster Development Trail – Oren suggested that we document with the DRB, our recommendation to connect the Sullivan Trail to the cemetery, put a trail around the eastern side of the houses and abandon the connection to Red Pine Rd. Peter made a motion to do so, Chic seconded, subject to approval from the Cemetery Commission, and the vote was passed unanimously.
13. Record Article – Peter wrote the one for the October issue and Jane will write the one for November. She will use this article to publicize the vacancies on the TC. There is no issue published in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Sheldon, Secretary