Hinesburg Trails Committee

Minutes of December 15, 2021 Meeting

Draft

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

Regrets: Colin Hunt

Guest: James Mangrum, prospective new member

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

Oren opened the meeting by welcoming Brian Bock, newest member, to the committee. Brian has volunteered on some TC work projects so is already known to current members.

1. Minutes – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as is, Jane seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. There was no November meeting due to lack of a quorum.
2. Budget – Ray said he spent $37 on supplies for the bridge on the Carse trail so we now have $596 left until July 1 next year.
3. Secretary – There are two functions as Secretary. One is to take minutes at the meetings and make sure they get posted on the town web site. The second is to be a third officer to run meetings or other duties in case the Chair and Vice Chair are absent. Since Jane will be leaving at the end of the month, it was agreed that taking minutes would be rotated among the members, with Bret taking the first meeting in January. Ray agreed to be Secretary.
4. Supplies and Files – Jane is currently holding a file box of documents and correspondence given to her by Lenore. Jane noted that she has not had a reason to refer to the files so Oren suggested that it be stored in the town hall, rather than someone’s home. Jane will check with Missy to see if this is possible. Peter has agreed to store the other supplies Jane has been holding (banners, t-shirts, etc.).
5. LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest – Chic noted that VT Fish and Wildlife needs to mow the meadow, but that probably wouldn’t happen until the spring. He also noted that the large map at the kiosk on Gilman Rd has faded and needs replacement.
6. Large Maps at Kiosks – Alex has offered to print out the large kiosk map for the Russell Trail kiosk. Chic will also request ones for Gilman Rd, Geprags, Economou Rd and Hayden Hill West.
7. Signage – Bret brought up the issue of signage for up to three main trail issues. Although there are “rules” posted, some of the more important ones are listed among many others, in small print and on the kiosk where many people don’t even stop. Bret mentioned a case of a loose dog on the Russell Trails, where the owner wasn’t aware of the town ordinance requiring dogs be leashed. Jane suggested posting a separate sign at the start of each trail which hikers could not miss. Brian offered to make a list of a few more topics that need to be highlighted on the sign for discussion at the next meeting. Chic suggested the town cover the cost.
8. Carse Trail – The mowing that Ray has done has held up well and the bridge over the stream has been built. We now need to come up with a catchier name, put up a small kiosk with information about the trail, add it to the trifold pamphlet and publicize it. Oren offered to write an article about it for the January Record and Ray will provide a photo.
9. Eddy Easement – Peter reported that David Eddy has filed a subdivision survey with the town which shows the alignment of the proposed easement, but he has yet to approve and sign the final easement language.  He affirmed that he intends to do so.  Peter will follow up with David and see if he would be willing to reach out to the property owners across Charlotte Rd (the Knights) to see if they would be willing to provide an easement on their property which would lead the trail on toward the village.  The land there on the north side is drier and would be easier to use than the south side, as attested by Ray who had to have his brush hog machine pulled out of the mud last summer.
10. Russell Trail Parking Lot – Chic will be corresponding with Mitch to determine what he needs to ensure the VLT easement extends from the perimeter trail to Buck Hill. Ann Donegan and Howdy Russell have offered to make that happen. Until this issue is cleared up, we can’t move forward with changing the parking area from dirt and grass to gravel.
11. Vacancies – Oren, Chic and Bret have their terms ending January 1, 2022. All have agreed to renew their membership for another three years. Jane pointed out that Brian and whoever else joins in the next months will also have terms ending January 1, 2025. She suggested that they investigate whether some of the renewals can be changed to two-year terms to avoid having five or more of the nine members on the same schedule.
12. Officers – Oren and Chic agreed to continue in their current positions. Ray made a motion to vote Oren as Chair, Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. Oren made a motion to vote Chic as Vice Chair, Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Oren made a motion to vote Ray as Secretary, Chic seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
13. Record Articles – Oren suggested that the TC not be committed to writing an article for the paper each month, but rather have members offer when there is a topic that needs addressing or someone has had an outdoor experience they would like to relate. No one objected.
14. Open Meeting Law – Jane will review the rules for municipal committees and see which apply to the TC. Oren suggested that we get someone from the town to explain what we were allowed to discuss outside of warned meetings, e.g. administrative and maintenance issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Sheldon, Secretary (Emeritus!)