**Final Minutes of Hinesburg Trail Committee Meeting on January 19th, 2022**

Present: Colin Hunt, Chic McArthur, Ray Mainer, Bret Golann, Peter Modley, Brian Bock, Oren Guttmann

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. No public comment – no members of the public attended this meeting. Most committee members attended via Zoom.

3. Additions/changes to agenda: No changes or additions.

4. Review minutes of previous meeting: No changes to draft. Motion to approve by Ray with second by Peter. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Expenses: Ray spent modest amounts under $30 for hardware to complete Baldwin bridge. Purchases were charged directly to the Town and paid from the committee’s budget.

6. New Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) trail map posted on town website and Avenza: The Committee informally approved having Alex W. post the new HTF map to the Town website. The new map is already available on Avenza.

7. Dog signs/leashes: There was extensive discussion of possible approaches for informing dog walkers, bicyclists and joggers of their responsibilities for dogs on trails. Discussion focused on new trail signage.

* All recognized that the Town’s ordinance does not require dogs to be leashed but does require full control of the dog by the owner or any trail user who brings a dog(s) with them.
* Brian provided a presentation about different types of signs that could be used at our four main trail systems to remind people that they must have complete control of their animal and to carry out waste. The presentation included numerous examples representing different approaches and sign designs.
* The committee felt that our approach should focus on education with humor where possible – rather than strict warnings that could be viewed negatively.
* To attract more attention from dog walkers, bicyclists and joggers, the committee also supported placing signs a short distance down the trails rather than at the parking lots. This is because at access points the numerous signs and posters compete for attention about a variety of topics.
* Bret and Brian will develop 2 – 3 sign suggestions and costs for the committee to consider at the next meeting.

8. Kelly’s Field Senior Housing expansion and possible trails/spurs connecting to Russell Loop: Committee discussed potential concerns about a spur trail’s steepness and whether the abutting landowner would give approval to a new spur trail. Chic will contact James Donegan about whether he would be open to a trail from the new Kelley’s Field expansion to his farm road in order to access the Russell Trails. If he’s amenable, Chic will also contact the developer to determine their interest.

9. Eddy Easement update – south side of Charlotte Road: Peter reported that the landowner remains enthusiastic about granting a trail easement to the Town. However, the easement is part of a larger, complex property merge involving different parcels. As a result, progress has been slowed. Peter also noted that because the Town requires binding arbitration be agreed to as part of all new easements, a codicil or addendum specifying such arbitration is required to be signed by both the landowner and Town. Peter continues to monitor developments and assist where possible.

10. Trail maintenance change from Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to the Hinesburg Trails Committee (HTC) for Buck Hill access trail leading to Russell Loop: The committee recognized that the HTC has accepted responsibility for trail maintenance on this spur access trail under a previously signed version of this agreement. It was agreed that the signed version should be recorded in Town land records. Oren will pursue this with the Town Clerk.

11. Other discussion: A possible new member of the committee has applied for appointment and is scheduled to interview with the Selectboard for possible appointment. The committee welcomes new members.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Bret Golann.