Hinesburg Trails Committee

Minutes of September 15, 2021 Meeting

Draft

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

Regrets: Nick Certo, Chris Rivard, Oren Guttmann

Guests: Brian Bock, Alex Weinhagen

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

1. Minutes- Jane made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 18th meeting, Colin seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. Budget – Jane will check with Missy to get the amount of funds remaining in our budget after the cost of the Russell Trail turnpike material purchased since July 1st.
3. Laster Development – Chic, Jane and Oren had been receiving emails from residents of Red Pine and Partridge Hill Roads, expressing their concern about a possible connecting trail from this development to the end of Red Pine Rd. The developer had suggested this possibility but had also indicated it was not a priority. Alex stated that as a private road, the residents do have a say as to who can use their road. As a result the TC will recommend that this connection not be made.

The developer is more interested in connections to the Sullivan Trail and the cemetery. The TC will check with the Cemetery Commission to make sure there is no concern about increased traffic there. After reviewing the proposed lot layout map, Peter suggested that the trail be rerouted to the east of the houses rather than between them. Jane queried whether the access to the cemetery would be feasible in that area. The TC will continue to monitor the progress of this project.

1. Baldwin Rd Extension/Carse Trail – Ray has mowed a path along the easement on the Halsmer property on the east side of Charlotte Rd, making the extension from the UVM property, through the Carse property to Leavensworth Rd. We now need to build a bridge across the stream on the Halsmer property to make it completely walkable. We also need to decide on a single name for the trail.
2. Eagle’s Trail Reroute – With the logging starting this winter the TC needs to reroute the Eagle’s Trail or close it. After reviewing the map it was determined to close the section affected. We will need to take down the current signs and blazes on the trees which have been selected for cutting, as indicated by blue markings. Ray and Colin will take care of this.
3. Buck Hill Trail Head – Colin has been contacting several contractors to get bids on grading this parking area, but has either not been able to get a response or the response has been no interest. Brian provided an additional person to contact. Jane brought up the possibility of cutting back the weeds to the left of the entrance to provide additional parking. Chic thought the ground underneath that area might be too wet or unlevel. When Colin does reach an interested contractor he will get two estimates, one for the original specs and another for the area left of the entrance if it turns out to be usable.
4. Geprags Connector – Colin has not been able to get any response from the landowner involved. He will continue trying.
5. Russell Trail Turnpike/Puncheons – Chic needs to find a way to get the wood from Home Depot to the site. No one has a vehicle that could carry more than a few pieces. Several members offered to move two or three at a time. Chic will organize the volunteers to get the materials.
6. Meeting in the Park September 18th – This event is planned to get town residents involved in designing a park on the lot on Farmall Drive. Alex has asked town committee members to attend. Jane will try to be there.
7. Tick Signs – Oren had received a request that we purchase and post tick warning signs at all the trailheads. The cost for the suggested metal ones was $350 for 10. Since there are already signs at most of the kiosks behind the plexiglass, Chic made a motion to deny this request. Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
8. Record Articles – Jane wrote the one for September, Peter will write the one for October.
9. Trail Maintenance - Chic suggested that next spring the TC members make a plan for lopping the overhanging vegetation on the trails more often, and to remember to bring tools for doing so whenever hiking on the HART system.
10. LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest – Peter reminded us that the Trail from Lewis Creek Rd to the Hidden Meadow has two very muddy areas which either need puncheons, or improvement to the corduroy logs there. There are also some places that trees are down but can be stepped over. Peter also said that there is a wash-out at the Lewis Creek parking area that needs to be fixed. Chic noted there is a large tree that needs to be chain sawed on the trail near where we rerouted it on the far side of the ravine. He also reported that there were three muddy patches on the trail from Gilman Rd to the Hidden Meadow, but he said there is enough wood at the meadow to fix those spots. With Pat Mainer’s approval, he will organize a group to accomplish that task.

 The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Sheldon, Secretary