

Hinesburg Trails Committee

Minutes of April 21, 2021 Meeting
Held via Zoom

Approved

Present: Jane Sheldon, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer, Chris Rivard, Nick Certo

Regrets: Chic McArthur, Colin Hunt, Bret Golann

Guests: Patterson Frazier, Thad Halsmer, Sparky Millikin, Cheryl Coopersmith, Chris Hill, Nancy Wood

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

1. Minutes – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Budget – Oren reported that we there has been no new expenses so we have approximately \$900 left in our budget.
3. Baldwin Rd to Leavensworth Rd Connector – Thad Halsmer attended to express concerns about the trail the Trails Committee (TC) plans to build on the easement which runs through his property on the east side of Charlotte Rd. The easement language is a bit vague about whether there would be a sidewalk or footpath and Oren offered to review it with the town lawyer, but Thad agreed to move forward with the footpath. Thad mentioned that pedestrians had cut through the field at that corner and that he planned to eventually use that for livestock. He also expressed concern about the danger of crossing Charlotte Rd to get to Leavensworth. Nancy Wood and Sparky Millikin also noted that the speed limit at that corner is often ignored adding to potential problems. Also discussed were parking issues at the end of Leavensworth and visibility due to some pine trees. The TC agreed to take all these issues into consideration when planning the path. *Subsequently, Oren has reached out to Mike Anthony and will report next meeting.*
4. Hinesburg Center Phase 2 – Peter will continue to monitor DRB meeting minutes to ensure that the requirements laid out by the TC are met.
5. Geprags Connector – Colin was to have met with the landowners concerned. He will report on this at the May meeting.
6. Lincoln Hill/Carse Property – Carse Properties has offered to sell 291 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) to the Vermont Land Trust and the Hinesburg Land Trust, to be used for recreation. There is currently a mountain bike trail (Back Door to Carse) which connects the HTF to Lincoln Hill. Chris Hill attended to encourage the TC to lobby the Select Board in favor of the purchase. His property on Lincoln Hill is surrounded by the Carse

land. The TC is pleased to support this addition to the HART system. Peter made a motion to send a letter to the Select Board making our support official and it was passed unanimously. He will draft the letter for Oren's review and signature.

7. Lavigne Hill Rd Area Trails – Patterson has GPS'd the current paths along the properties between Mechanicsville Rd and Lavigne Hill Rd. There are three landowners involved and two of them have tentatively planned to conserve a portion of their parcels. One landowner has hired a forester to walk their land, the other has yet to hire one. The TC will follow up this summer. Peter noted that one of the GPS'd routes comes close to the High Rock overlook and suggested we keep that as a priority.
8. North Rd Area Trails – The CVU student who wanted to add trails to the land east of North Rd sent Oren a hand drawn trail map of where he thought there was a trail which led from North Rd to Spencer Hill. Peter reported his property was on that route and was sure there was no access up the cliff below his house. Although there might be a way to come up the ravine to the north, he has never encountered anyone coming up there. Patterson agreed to work with the student to formally map the path with his GPS. Oren will connect the two.
9. HTF Trail Closing due to Logging – Colin will report on his meeting at the next meeting.
10. Avenza – Chic will report on this topic at the next meeting.
11. Lewis Creek Parking – Oren had been in touch with Joy, Alex and Lenore about the complaints made by a farmer who could not pass along Lewis Creek because hikers were parking on the road when the parking lot was full. There was no consensus among them as to what could be done, if anything, but the issue is now in the Town Hall's hands.
12. Signage –
 - a. Gilman Rd Parking – Chic had mentioned to Oren that he felt we should ask the town to add signs regarding the change in the town's Dog Ordinance (they must now be leashed, not just under voice control). It may hold more weight than just the TC putting up "Leash your dog" signs.
 - b. Ravine Trail – Ray has put up a permanent sign saying that the trail is closed and rerouted. Hopefully, that will stop hikers from using the dangerously steep old trail. Oren will put up laminated YOU ARE HERE maps in LHTF.
13. Russell Trails – Bret sent out a memo prior to this meeting to report on his meeting with Justin Geibel re the muddy area on the south side of the perimeter. Our original idea of using pipes to drain the area was deemed not feasible. Puncheons would be on a slope so most likely dangerously slippery. Gravel was an option but would require quite a bit of labor. Oren suggested rerouting the trail onto the rock wall, which had sunk low to the ground. It would require cutting back quite a bit of buckthorn and other shrubbery. We will continue discussions at the next meeting.

14. National Trails Day – The TC is planning on organizing a volunteer workday on June 5th. Oren will write an article about it for the May Record. We will have to finalize work projects at the May meeting to ensure we have enough of the right tools or request volunteers bring their own. Jane will contact Kate Kelly to see if the Conservation Commission wants to add work parties in Geprags.
15. Record - Patterson wrote the article for the April issue and Oren is writing for the May issue, due May 13th. We need a volunteer for the June issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35, The next meeting is scheduled for May 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Sheldon, Secretary