

Hinesburg Trails Committee

Minutes of May 19, 2021 Meeting
Held via Zoom

Approved

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

Regrets: Chris Rivard

Guests: Patterson Frazier

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

1. Minutes – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting. Oren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Budget – Chic has spent \$17.28 on oil for the weed whacker, so we have approximately \$883 left in our budget.
3. National Trails Day – As of now Ray, Colin, Bret, Chic, Jan and Peter will be able to work on this day, Saturday, June 5th. Although it is always hard to accurately predict the number of volunteers who will be available, we decided that the following projects were most likely able to keep everyone busy.
 - a. Russell Trails Muddy Section – Chic presented the photo and concept of building a “highway” type raised trail to resolve the poor drainage issue on the southern part of the Perimeter Trail. It requires hauling in wood to build a framework in which to pack gravel. It was decided to concentrate on getting the wood staged at the trail site before NTD and send a team to build the frame that day. Gravel will be installed later. Building puncheons was also discussed but determined to be more expensive and time consuming. Chic and Ray will head this project and have the authority to spend up to \$800 on supplies, including rebar, gravel etc. They will contact other members of the TC if they need help in transporting or moving materials.
 - b. Russell Trails Lopping – Usually at this time of year there are several places along the trails which need cutting back of overhanging vegetation or thorn bushes. Several volunteers can be assigned to this task as well.
 - c. Geprags – The only major project mentioned was the bridge to the Hill Spur has collapsed and is under water, however this would not be a suitable one-day project for volunteers. Jane suggested that many of the side and connecting trails need lopping even this early. A team could be sent there as well. She will liaise with Kate Kelly.

- d. Baldwin Rd Extension – Ray said that the area on the Carse property before the Halsmers, needed leveling off, with stumps from bushes and other growth removed. The best tools needed for this job would be pick hoes and very strong loppers. Chic said the TC had a few of those in storage, but we should ask volunteers to bring some as well.

We decided to offer pizza and juice or water to the workers after 12 noon. Jane and Peter will coordinate.

We also decided that we wouldn't reschedule for the following day if we were rained out that Saturday as much of the work on the Russell Trail would have to be postponed until things dried out.

Communications – Oren will post a notice on Front Porch Forum, asking people to contact him if they are interested in volunteering, finding out what they would be interested in doing and making sure they have the proper tools for the job.

4. Record Article – Oren wrote the article for the May issue, Colin agreed to write on for the June issue (deadline = June 10th) and Bret offered to do so for the August issue (deadline = August 12th). There is no July issue published.
5. Town Forest Logging – Colin reported that part of the Eagle's Trail will be closed next winter and the trail rerouted either onto existing bike paths or through new territory. The latter would require blazing or tree banding. He will continue to liaise with Ethan Tapper for updated info.
6. Geprags Connector – Colin met with the new landowner west of our proposed new trail. Her husband is currently being deployed but she will discuss this with him when he returns. Colin will continue to be in contact with her.
7. Lincoln Hill/Carse Property – Peter drafted a letter supporting the purchase of this 291-acre parcel, Oren signed it and it was sent to the Select Board in hopes of a positive outcome.
8. Avenza – Chic was interviewed by WCAX News regarding our efforts to get people to download the trail maps using the Avenza app. It was televised on last Saturday mornings news.
9. Hayden Hill West Parking Lot – Chic discussed the bad conditions in this lot for the Hinesburg Town Forest with Pat Mainer, who suggested he get in touch with the Highway Dept. Chic left a message with Mike Anthony and will report if any improvements can be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Sheldon, Secretary

