



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2019

- Approved 4/17/19 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer

Regrets: Bret Golann, George Dameron

Guests: Scott Shumway, James Donegan, Nick Certo

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

- 1. Minutes** – Chic made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Oren seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – There have been no expenditures since the last meeting, so our funds remain at \$690.
- 3. Possible New Connection** – Scott Shumway attended to suggest a possible way to connect Leavensworth Road to town. Three possibilities were discussed: 1) north side of the LaPlatte River using existing snowmobile trail and bridges, and an existing ford, 2) south side of LPR via a new bridge over the LPR to the water treatment facility, then across the former Clark property, and 3) south side of LPR via a new bridge over the LPR to the water treatment property, then Lagoon Road to Carse easement on south side of Charlotte Road to reach Leavensworth Road. Various issues were brought up including cost and permitting involved in bridge construction and any construction in a floodplain, landowner permissions, and cooperation from the local snowmobile club. James mentioned that there were dredge piles along the west side of the LPR on his family's land, which might provide a higher and drier route for part of such a trail. Lenore is going to follow up with the local snowmobile club, the new owner of the Clark property, and VT Land Trust, which holds an easement on the former Clark land.
- 4. Additional Connectivity** – Lenore had asked James to attend to find out which routes the CVU cross country track team used or what he thought they might want to use so we can incorporate them into future trail development work. He is now coaching middle-schoolers but was able to give us information on both CVU and Hinesburg Community School teams' routes. Recently the CVU team was restricted from using Shelburne Falls Road to get to Leavensworth due to the high traffic danger there. One option we discussed was to go from CVU to Place Road, across Route 116 to the Carse pedestrian easement leading southwest to the north side of Geprags Park. This brought up the need to connect from the west side of Geprags Park to O'Neil Road (to avoid Shelburne Falls Road) and the longstanding challenge to connect from

Geprags Park to Ballard's Corner Road. Lenore will research the status of the Carse easement: the TC may be able to simply mow a path from Route 116 to the north side of Geprags Park. James' other comments about historic, current, and future running routes were recorded as annotations to a town-wide map.

5. **Dog Survey** – Jane reviewed the findings of the survey taken among attendees at town meeting and the TC agreed there was enough interest, and little opposition, to setting aside some trails where dogs would be prohibited. A more in-depth survey will be set up using Survey Monkey to determine which trails would be the best for the most residents. George, Jane and Bret will work on this new survey project.
6. **Town Meeting Review** – Chic said there was a decent amount of interest from residents at our table and many of our maps and brochures were handed out.
7. **Official Map** – The Planning Commission is holding a hearing on Wednesday, March 27th to review the proposed Official Map before it goes to the Select Board and another public hearing prior to adoption. Lenore suggested that we add more lines to reflect that walkers are using the berm heading north behind Farmall Drive to get to the Bissonette Rec Field. A second suggested change to the draft Official Map was to remove the future trail segment from the Blumen property on the west side of Silver Street on the side south of the LaPlatte River. The Blumen's expressed concerns to Alex. This route had been included on the previous Official Map because it is a snowmobile route, but now that there are sidewalks along the north end of Silver St, the west side of Route 116, into the Green Street neighborhood, and a trail easement from there to and along the LaPlatte River, there is no longer a need for a pedestrian trail on the Blumen property. The TC approved these two changes, which Lenore will pass on to Alex. Lenore encouraged TC members to attend the March 27th hearing.
8. **Spring Events** – Lenore asked us to think about projects we wanted to tackle on National Trails Day and bring those ideas and material requirements to the April meeting. She is also planning a Bird Walk in Geprags on May 11th or 12th. We will keep in mind setting up a Story Walk in June or July.
9. **Record Articles** – Jane has written the March article. Bret has offered to write one for the April issue, the submission date is April 11th.
10. **Richmond Road Project** – The TC will keep this project “top of mind” with the Select Board, which had agreed to set up an ad hoc committee to investigate the next steps. Ray Nails had said he wanted to be in that group and the TC will be represented by Chic, and possibly Bret.
11. **VYCC** – Lenore reported that the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp may be doing some drainage work on the Class IV portion of LaVigne Hill Road.
12. **LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest** – Oren, Nick and Oren's friend Jacob, explored the area to find a better entrance from Gilman Road than the current one so close to the Hemingway

property. They found some possibilities. Lenore suggested going back with a GPS unit so any proposed routes can be overlaid on property boundaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary