



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2019

- Draft -

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

**Regrets:** Bret Golann, George Dameron

**Guests:** Erik Engstrom, Alex Weinhausen, Nick Certo

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

1. **Minutes** – Ray 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. We will need to spend some of this for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp who will be building puncheons and water bars, and armoring the stream on the LaVigne Hill trail for us in the summer. How much we can offer and in which year's budget will depend on what our estimates total for our National Trails Day expenses. (See Point 5).
3. **Sharing VAST Trail** – Following up on conversations at prior TC meetings about connectivity between the town and Leavensworth Road, Lenore invited Erik Engstrom, President of the Iroquois Snow Beavers snowmobile club to attend so we could discuss if there was any way we could use those VAST trails for pedestrian use. Erik explained that his club was being allowed to use the route across private land with informal and sometimes year to year agreements with owners. He could see the benefit of sharing the route for some of the maintenance and financial responsibilities, as long as we didn't plan on making changes which would hinder snowmobile use. He explained we would have to go to the landowners directly for permission. Currently the club only has approval for winter use. There may be more resistance to summer use, but we may be able to negotiate snow shoeing or x-country skiing. Oren asked if there was any concern about motorized vehicles on the same trails as foot traffic. Erik said they could groom the trail wider to accommodate both and there were signs they used in other towns to warn riders and walkers of upcoming blind spots or narrow areas. He will send Lenore examples of these signs.

4. **Carse Easement** – Lenore had contacted David Carse re the possibility of connecting Geprag's Park to Place Rd through his development on Route 116. David said not at this time. He asked Lenore if the TC had any plans to use the easement his family had given on Charlotte Road. We had not yet, but Lenore brought up the possibility of using that easement to connect Leavensworth Road to Baldwin Road for horses and foot traffic. This may be a project for National Trails Day. Lenore offered to contact the new landowners to let them know our plan to use the easement.
5. **National Trails Day** - We discussed some projects we should plan for. Peter Van Vranken has volunteered to recruit a team of neighbors again this year and will tackle building puncheons at the LaPlatte Headwaters. Geprag's Hill Spur needs rerouting, we will attempt to get some Thistle Hill volunteers to take care of the Sullivan Trail, and the Russell Trail and Geprags always need lopping. Ray has some materials to fix puncheons on the Russell Trail but could use more. We are to bring estimates of what materials we will need and the cost involved to the May meeting.
6. **Eagle's Trail Donation** – The Town Forest Committee has offered us \$500 to repair some damage done by the loggers this winter on the Eagle's Trail. Ray pointed out that only part of the work was done so it might be better to wait until the project is finished next spring.
7. **Update on Richmond Road** – Andrea Morgante has more time after leaving the Select Board and has indicated to Lenore that she wants to champion this project. We will continue to act in an advisory and support capacity.
8. **Decals** – Chic showed us a selection of vinyl static cling decals which can be placed on the windows of cars. We can use them on our own, give them to volunteers or landowners who are working with us, or hand them out at our info tables. Oren made a motion to purchase 100 to start, for a total of \$90 plus shipping. Jane seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
9. **Spring Events** –
  - a. Lenore reminded us that the TC is invited to dinner at town hall tomorrow night with other municipal volunteers.
  - b. Lenore is holding a bird walk on May 11<sup>th</sup>, rain date May 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. National Trails Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>, plans for which will be finalized at the May meeting
  - d. Jane offered to organize a Story Walk with Annette's Preschool, perhaps for the weekend of Father's Day in June.
10. **Record Articles** – Bret will write the May article and George will write the one for June. There is no issue published in July.
11. **Path from Route 116 to Rec Field** – Chic reported that someone had mowed the path already and the signs are back up.

- 12. Dogs** – Jane reported that any more survey work will be postponed until after the academic year for George and Bret. She also had investigated signs for “Dogs must be on Leash” and found a wide variety of sizes and costs. She will work with George to decide on a recommendation when he has time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary

DRAFT