



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2019

- Approved 9/18/19 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Peter Modley, George Dameron, Oren Guttman, and Nick Certo

Regrets: Ray Mainer, Bret Golann

Guests: Kyle Bostwick and Dan Jacobs – Lot 31 Association; Brad Friesen – Iroquois Snow Beavers Snowmobile Club

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

Congratulations were given all around to Oren who reported that Everett Cooper Guttman was born a few days ago to his wife Anthea and him. Welcome to the newest member of the Trails Committee (TC) family!

- 1. Minutes** – Oren made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting, Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. LaPlatte River Trail** – In order to propose a trail easement location on the Hinesburg Center II property before it undergoes preliminary plat review by the DRB, the TC continued discussions with representatives of the Iroquois Snow Beavers and the Lot 31 Association. In previous discussions with the Snow Beavers they had indicated their willingness to open their existing trail from Charlotte Road to Leavensworth and O’Neil Roads for four-season pedestrian recreation if the Trails Committee is able to secure permission from the landowners involved. Brad re-iterated this but stressed that they want the trail to remain in its current location. Kyle and Dan explained the apparent contradictions in the text of the existing trail easement across the Lot 31 property, and indicated they want the trail to remain where it is and that they are all for a four-season recreation trail in that location. They also suggested that the trail behind (on the south side of) the Creekside duplexes be connected up to the river trail. Because of wetness and the possibility of flooding all agreed that these trails would be informal or “rustic” involving only minimum maintenance other than maintaining the existing bridges. Trail maintenance would be the Snow Beavers’ responsibility in winter and the Trail Committee’s in summer although both Brad and Kyle indicated they would help with mowing. Brad reminded the TC to also request a Hinesburg Center II trail easement running along the south side of Patrick Brook.

Lenore will draft a memo to the DRB regarding the desired location of a multi-use recreation easement on the Hinesburg Center II property.

3. **Town Forest Update** – Bret reported previously that all the work which was schedule on the Eagle’s Trail has been completed. Thank you, Bret, for all your organizing and hard labor!
4. **LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest Management Plan** – We discussed some questions we had about the draft plan, specifically those points relating to signage, timing of maintenance, dog usage and stream crossing structures. Those which could not be resolved tonight will be conveyed to the Town Forest Committee for clarification. One recommendation that Lenore suggested was to drop the goal of trying to connect the north and south portions. We had investigated that possibility several times before and found that a combination of topography, swampy areas and reluctant private landowners made it unlikely to happen.
5. **Geprags/Library Link** – Lenore has reflagged the proposed new trail from the former Travia’s, now to be called Bucky’s, to address the concern of landowners, the Conservation Commission and Bucky’s owner, Tony St. Hillaire. We still need to work out where parking would be. Lenore has been in touch with the dentist, whose office is nearby as well as the director of the Food Shelf, but both have declined. Conversations with the library are on-going. Chic offered to discuss the issue with the branch manager of Community Bank. One option discussed is to make this a no-parking trailhead.
6. **Carse Trail** – Lenore sent Thad Halsmer a letter with names of other landowners involved with the HART system as well as maps of all the trails, suggesting he might want to see what the HART trails are like and talk with some landowners to understand how the TC works with them. Meanwhile, Lenore suggests that we start to create this trail on the parcels that David Carse still owns before they change hands. She will suggest a few dates to flag this stretch and determine what tools and equipment are needed.
7. **Puncheon on Russell Trail** – Ray has said he is available most days in August to complete the new puncheons behind the kiosk at the playing fields. Lenore will ask him to choose a few days so we can recruit TC members to help.
8. **Dog Survey** – Jane and George had met to start the project to survey residents as to their opinion about setting aside a trail or trail system to prohibit dogs. Jane agreed to start developing the questionnaire and George was to talk to the Conservation Commission and James Donegan to make sure they were willing to set aside some area. George reported that the CC is in the process of making one or more trails dog-free to protect nesting birds. George will get more details and report back at the next meeting. As a result, this project is on hold.
9. **Record Articles** – George is writing the article for the August issue and Bret is for the September issue.

- 10. Brush Cutter Repair** – Chic asked for \$58 to repair and maintain the TC brush cutter. The TC approved this expenditure. Chic will go to Aubuchons and have the invoice charged to the town account.
- 11. Passing the Buck Maintenance** – The LeRoys are dealing with health issues and are no longer able to help maintain this trail. We will need to set up a lopping/brush cutting party. Chic and Lenore will set up a date and let the rest of us know some of us can help out.
- 12. DRB Meeting** – Lenore attended the DRB meeting last night and requested a trail easement along the west edge of the Frost property to connect to an existing easement on properties to the north. The Frosts already host a snowmobile trail on the property and are willing to consider a pedestrian trail easement. Lenore will set up a time to walk the property with the Frosts.
- 13. Pop-Up Park** – Lenore noted that the town is sponsoring a Pop-Up park in the lot behind the fire station on August 3rd, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and encouraged us to attend. The purpose is to get public feedback as to how to use this land.
- 14. Town Forest Committee Meeting** – Lenore had sent out a document regarding the impact of trails on wildlife, which will be discussed at the TFC's August 8th meeting. She requested that someone join her at that meeting.
- 15. Public Safety at Trailheads** – Recently there was a tragic event at the LHTF trailhead parking lot, where someone was murdered. Craig Chevrier lives within a few yards of the lot and posted at least two comments about what should be done for public safety, including closing the areas. The Select Board has this issue on the agenda for tomorrow night's meeting. Lenore and other TC members will attend.
- 16. Richmond Road Project** – Peter reported that he's been in touch with Andrea Morgante for an update on the sidewalk project. She reported that they are in the process of talking to landowners along that corridor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The August meeting has been cancelled so the next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Treasurer