



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461  
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

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### Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2019

*- Approved 12/18/19 -*

**Present:** Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Peter Modley, George Dameron, Oren Guttmann, Ray Mainer, Nick Certo

**Regrets:** Bret Golann

**Guest:** Patterson Frazier, “Jack” Mainer

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

- 1. Minutes** – Lenore had an addition to last month’s minutes to include the fact that she would be asking the town for an increase in our budget for the next fiscal year from \$750 to \$1000. George made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – Lenore reported that we have \$137.42 left in our funds, a correction from the amount reported last month due to finding a duplication in one invoice.
- 3. Committee Membership** – Two valued members whose terms are up at the end of the year have decided not to renew. George and Lenore have both served for many years and we thank them for their services. We discussed a few names of people who have shown interest in joining in the past or who have been active volunteers. Lenore will alert them to the vacancies.
- 4. Trail Use During Hunting Season** – No one on the TC knows if any deer were taken in the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) during the most recent deer season. Jane has seen prints indicating dog and human use but there is no way of knowing if they are from hunters. Ray said that Pat Mainer would be trying to get anecdotal info from hunting tagging stations.
- 5. Jenny Subdivision** – Lenore reported that the DRB will probably approve the sketch plan submitted but will include the same language as the Frost sketch plan as the need for the landowners to come to the TC to work on a location for a pedestrian easement.
- 6. Haystack Development** – We reviewed several maps included in the sketch plan application to see whether sidewalks or pedestrian easements were included. Peter mentioned that we

should attempt to get connectivity to Geprag's Park somehow, although the most direct route along the northern boundary heading west does run into wetlands. Lenore pointed out that no snowmobile trail had been shown between the snowmobile bridge over Patrick Bridge and Shelburne Falls Road and felt that should be included. Lenore also pointed out that sidewalks were not extended to the Rec Fields along Bissonette Drive. Lenore will write a memo to the DRB to make sure the plans include our suggestions.

- 7. **Hill Spur Trail** – This trail in Geprags is now officially a no-dog trail and signage has been put up to that effect.
- 8. **Paul's Trail** – This informal trail from Thistle Hill to the Russell Trail is now official. All landowners have given permission and Tom Carlson will be installing signs.

9. **Task List –**

- a. **Harry Russell Easement** – Lenore has tried to get in touch with Harry to obtain a signed permission or a trail easement and will continue her attempts.
- b. **Meeting with Conleys and Tony St Hillaire** – We will postpone until spring setting up a meeting with these landowners to continue to work toward a connecting path from the library to Geprag's Park.
- c. **River Trail** – The TC will approach the Russell Family and Catamount-Malone re a trail easement along the LaPlatte River.
- d. **Baldwin Road Bypass** – Ray was able to make a great start on this new trail by brush-hogging. In the spring the TC will need to organize a work party to clear more debris and stumps. At that time David Carse will remove any gates and fences. The TC will need to co-ordinate these efforts. We will also need to keep in touch with the two UVM professors, Nate Sanders and Brendan Fisher, who are eager to continue the path south onto the UVM Natural Area.
- e. **Catchpaw Road-Isham Road Connection** – There is a new landowner to the north of the Class IV section of this road, which means a bypass of the beaver pond area may be possible. The TC will need to contact them in the spring.
- f. **Easement Inventory** – Lenore has brought the trail easement inventory up to date and will work with Alex to update the easement map.
- g. **Thank You Letters** – Jane will write this year's letter to landowners and get it circulated to all TC members for input. We hope to have the final version printed and ready for signing at the December meeting. Chic suggested we include decals for the landowners' cars. Jane will reference these in the letter.
- h. **Mill Site Trail** – George reported he has been hindered by bad weather from further investigating the viability of this project.

- 10. **Pat Frazier Project** – Pat is a Hinesburg Community School 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Students in this class have been asked to participate in an outside project of their choice which will make a positive impact in the community. He attended the meeting to see if there was some trail maintenance in

which he could be involved. The project needed to be done before Christmas break. Since there is already snow on the ground this is not an ideal time of year for trail work, but Ray offered to have Pat help him build some puncheons on Passing the Buck, weather permitting. He will get in touch with Pat to set up a time.

**11. Record Articles** – Oren wrote the article for the November issue. Nick offered to take care of the January article. There is no issue published in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary