



Trails Committee

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

Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2019

- Approved 1/15/20 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Peter Modley, George Dameron, Ray Mainer, Colin Hunt, Bret Golann

Regrets: Oren Guttmann, Nick Certo

Guest: Peter Erb

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

1. **The Trails Committee** (TC) welcomed Colin Hunt as our newest member. He had been confirmed by the Select Board at their meeting this evening.
2. **Minutes** – Peter requested a change in item 4 of the November minutes to clarify the fact that the TC did not know if any deer had been taken from the Hinesburg Town Forest during hunting season. George made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. **Budget** – Lenore reported that we have had no expenses since last month so our funds remain at \$137.42. She has asked the town to raise our budget from \$750 to \$1000 next year to cover costs of at least one new bridge.
4. **Officer Elections** – Since Oren and Nick were not able to attend, it was decided to hold off electing new officers until the next meeting. As the current Vice Chair, Oren will be acting-chair and organize the agenda for that meeting.
5. **Passing on and Archiving Records** – Lenore has accumulated many digital and paper records over her 12 years' membership. She will coordinate with Jane to turn over as much as possible on flash drives and in boxes. She will also talk to Alex about how the town archives its records. Using Google Docs or Dropbox was also discussed. This project will be added to the task list.
6. **RISE and CVU Trails** – Peggy McDonald had been in touch with Lenore to see if there were project where CVU students in the RISE program could help. Oren has been in contact with her and will update us at the next meeting.

7. **CVU Trails GPS-ing** – Patterson Frazier, the HCS student who asked to help the TC as a project for his 7th grade class, borrowed the TC's GPS receiver to GPS the trails. Lenore will download the tracks and create a map for the TC. This information will aid discussion with CVU students and staff about which, if any, trails to add to the HART system.
8. **New Trail Near Lewis Creek** – Landowner Kathy Furr may be interested in adding a neighborhood trail to the HART system off Lewis Creek. Another landowner, Andy Roomet, would also need to sign off on this idea. Peter Erb mentioned that there is some space for parking on Turkey Lane, and there may be access to this new trail from Lewis Creek directly across from Turkey Lane.
9. **Task List and New Assignments** –
 - a. **Thistle Hill to Russell Farm** – Tom Carlson is in the process of putting up signs for the new trail off Thistle Hill. Lenore had been the contact to make sure the signs were placed in the correct location, etc. Someone will need to be the new liaison.
 - b. **Geprags** – In the spring we plan to host a meeting with the owner of Bucky's Pub and the adjacent landowners to follow up on working for the link to the library. Colin offered to be responsible for organizing that.
 - c. **Town Forest** – The International Trail has been renamed the Russell Ramble in honor of Steve Russell who dedicated so much of his time to the Town Forest management. Some signage has been changed, but not all. Ray offered to finish replacing the old signs.
 - d. **Lewis Creek** – Jesse Spear bought Joe Fallon's property. He has indicated he would like to close the portion of the trail on his land, to recreational use during hunting season as was done this season in the Hinesburg Town Forest. We should liaise with him before hunting season next fall to help him put up signage that is clear, to avoid any hunter/hiker conflict.
 - e. **Lewis Creek** – Colin offered to be the contact person with Kathy Furr and Andy Roomet re adding the trail (see Item 8) to the HART system.
 - f. **River Trail** – We will need to follow up with Anne Donegan to obtain trail permission or easement along the LaPlatte River.
 - g. **Easement Map** – Lenore will continue to work with Alex to map the trail easements in town.
 - h. **Mill Street Historical Site** – George offered to continue to explore the option of accessing this site from the cemetery. Lenore will add it to the task list.
10. **Map Distribution** – George agreed to continue to restock the Russell Trail kiosk map holder and Colin agreed to take over this duty at Geprags. Jane asked that everyone else alert her to any need to refill the two Hayden Hill kiosks, since it is difficult to reach them in the winter. Plows have been making snowbanks in front of the entrances to the parking areas instead of plowing them.

11. Record Articles – Nick had offered to write the article for the January issue (deadline = January 16th) and Bret will write the one for February (deadline = February 13th).

12. Thank You Letters – The TC members signed the thank you letters going to property owners, and raised a toast of sparkling cider (and carrot cake) to Lenore and George to thank them for their contributions over their many years of service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary