



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2020

- Draft -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer, Colin Hunt, Oren Guttman

Regrets: Bret Golann, Nick Certo

Guests: Peggy MacDonald, Sharon Ogden – RISE

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

1. **Minutes** – Jane read the addition to the December minutes that George Dameron had asked to be included. All approved. Peter made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Officer Election** – Oren was nominated as Chair, Chic as Vice Chair and Jane offered to stay on as Secretary. Ray made a motion to accept the slate as proposed, Colin seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. **Budget** – There have been no expenses since the last minute so our funds remain at \$137.42. Ray reported that the Town Forest Committee (TFC) has reserved \$500 for the Trails Committee (TC) to help maintain the Hinesburg Town Forest if needed.
4. **Current Maintenance Needs** – Chic reported that there were two trees down over the Bissonette Loop in the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest, which will require chain saws to remove. Oren offered to take care of these.
5. **Events for 2020**
 - a. **Story Walk** – Jane will liaise with Annette's Preschool in the spring to coordinate another Story Walk.
 - b. **National Trails Day** – We will start making a list of projects that can be used for this event, scheduled for Saturday, June 6th.
 - c. **Town Meeting** – Right now there is nothing to promote at this meeting, but we will revisit the topic at the February meeting.
 - d. **July 4th Parade** – We will decide whether to participate as the date gets closer and we have a better idea of how many will be available.

- e. **Conservation Commission (CC) Winter Festival** – No one from the CC has approached the TC regarding whether that committee plans on holding this event this year.

6. Projects for 2020

- a. **CVU Trails** – HCS student Patterson Frazier has GPS'd the trails at CVU and Lenore has put them on a map. We need to determine if CVU administration wants to include them in the HART system and whether they would expect us to maintain them. Ray will be the liaison with CVU.
- b. **West Side Trail** – There are two properties along the border with Charlotte that are requesting changes from the DRB. In order to make sure trail easements are included, the TC must make a written request. May 25th is the deadline for Jade Jenny to submit the preliminary plat, and Frost's final plat hearing is June 17th. Jane will investigate whether Lenore has already done so.
- c. **Baldwin Road** – Ray has mowed as much as possible from the end of Baldwin Road to the Carse property. It still needs stumps removed and other cleaning up. He also reported that there is a pile of debris at the Carse property that will need to be removed. Oren suggested we keep this in mind for a National Trails Day project.
- d. **Lewis Creek Trail** – Colin will follow up with Kathy Furr and Andy Roomet to see if they want to move forward on this trail. Oren will get their contact info to Colin. If this project materializes the trail will need to be GPS'd. Colin said he had an app on his phone which could do that.
- e. **Library/Geprags Link** – The TC will set up a meeting in the spring with the adjacent landowners and owner of Bucky's Pub to discuss how we can overcome their concerns regarding developing this link.
- f. **Geprags** – Jane questioned whether the TC should request that the CC take back full responsibility for maintaining this park. At a previous CC meeting which Jane had attended, the CC agreed that with a full complement of members they should resume responsibility. The TC had been taking care of this when the CC membership number had fallen substantially. Now with three or four new trails to be added to the HART system, it would be very helpful to take Geprags off our responsibilities. Jane will send the agreement confirmation made with Bob Hyams, and this topic will be discussed at the February meeting.

- 7. **RISE** – RISE coordinators, Peggy MacDonald and Sharon Ogden, attended to explain the program and ask if they could coordinate some projects with the TC. RISE is a program for CVU students who can benefit from learning-based internships. During the last 9 days of school, students are offered outings for hiking and community service. Peggy and Sharon requested that the TC suggest one or more trail maintenance projects to be held on the mornings of June 4th and 5th. The students will be supervised by RISE volunteers, Andrea Morgante and Ethan Tapper, and Ray also offered to help supervise. Oren suggested the clearing of the trail Ray started to mow on Baldwin Road, or finishing the grading of the portion of LaVigne Hill trail that the VYCC was not able to cover. RISE does not have funds to cover materials but will be able to

provide tools. Jane will check with Missy to see if the TC can borrow from next year's funds to buy material.

- 8. Archiving Records** – Jane has picked up the box of files from Lenore. She will contact her to see if there are any digital files that should be forwarded as well.
- 9. Record Articles** – Nick is submitting the article for this month, but is asking for photos of winter trail usage to go along with it. Oren and Jane will send some for his selection. Bret is writing the February article and Jane offered to write one for March.
- 10. Plaque for Lenore** – Chic noted that there have been plaques made to commemorate residents who have done a lot of volunteer work for the town. He will check with Renae to see if one can be awarded for Lenore's outstanding service on the TC.
- 11. Attendance** – Jane requested that either she or Oren be notified each month if any member cannot attend a meeting so we will know if we will have a quorum for voting.
- 12. Vacancy on TC** – Jane will follow up with Peter Erb, who attended last month's meeting and showed interest in joining.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary