



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2020

- Approved 6/17/20 -

Meeting Held via Zoom Remote Meeting Platform

**Present:** Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer, Colin Hunt, Oren Guttman, Nick Certo, Bret Golann

**Guest:** Mitchel Cypes, Town Development and Review Coordinator, and Bill Lippert, Hinesburg State Representative

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

- 1. Cost of Zoom Meeting** – Oren reported that he had signed up to host the Trails Committee meetings via Zoom at a cost of \$15/month. He made a motion that the TC would reimburse him for any months we would need to meet remotely. Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Minutes** – Peter made a motion to accept the February minutes which had included the past two months' updates added by Jane. Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 3. Budget** – The TC currently has \$382. 87 available, which will expire June 30th. These had been expected to be used by several projects, but which have been cancelled by the Covid-19 pandemic. Ray suggested we purchase lumber to be used for the bridge to be constructed on the new Baldwin Road trail. Chic also mentioned we need puncheons on a couple of wet areas on the Russell Trail. Ray offered to pick up supplies at Home Depot and Oren offered his trailer to deliver it. The \$500 which was allocated by the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee (HTFC) does not have an expiration date.
- 4. Haystack Crossing** – Mitchel Cypes presented maps of this development for the purpose of getting our input on sidewalks and pedestrian pathways. After reviewing which roads in the project would most likely be the most heavily travelled, we suggested that those have sidewalks on both sides of the street. Those roads which were not through streets to the rec field would need sidewalks on only one side. Peter suggested that there also be a pedestrian lanes or sidewalk on the road from Shelburne Falls Road, to facilitate access to the library, and hopefully eventually, Geprags Park.

5. **National Trails Day** – This event, sponsored by the American Hiking Society, has been cancelled due to the pandemic. They are asking volunteers to continue trail maintenance throughout the summer using social distancing and other health guidelines, rather than gather for one day of work. Oren will post a notice on Front Porch Forum (FPF) alerting to the cancellation and giving guidelines as to what and where volunteers can help on their own.
6. **Russell Trails Maintenance** – Chic reported that there is a long stretch (roughly 500') in the southeast portion of the Perimeter Trail which is very muddy, not due to rain, but by soil saturation. We discussed whether puncheons or water bars would help. Bret offered to scout the area and make a recommendation. Chic noted that there was another muddy spot north of there, and offered to go with Bret to check both areas.
7. **Lewis Creek Trail** – There have been complaints from hikers that the signs on the section on Jesse Spears' property is confusing. Nick offered to reach out to Jesse to see if they could be improved. Colin will contact Andy Roomet to discuss connecting his property to Kathy Furr's to extend the trail and connect it to the Bissonette Loop. Colin has the easement template for Kathy to review.
8. **Natural Resources Inventory Map** – Kate Kelly had contacted Oren to see if the TC would like to add current easements to this town map. The discussion was tabled to the next meeting.
9. **Geprag's Connector to Ballard's Corner** – Tabled to the next meeting.
10. **Story Walk** – Jane has been in contact with Maria Tenney-Lawyer at Annette's Preschool to hold a joint event. Jane will contact James Donegan (Russell Trails) and Kate Kelly (Geprags) to decide which trail system would be able to host this event in June and what dates would be best. Maria will select the book from the Hubbard Library and supply the posts, Chic will pick up the book in Montpelier and Jane (with the help of Bret and his wife) will install the various pages.
11. **Harry Russell Trail Easement** – Harry had suggested that we obtain a permanent easement to the Russell Perimeter Trail from his driveway. Chic will contact Harry to follow up.
12. **Charlotte Connector** – Oren showed a map of the trail segments that the Charlotte Trails Committee (CTC) is trying to connect in order for pedestrians to get from the Charlotte Town Beach to Mt Philo. The CTC had approached Oren about potentially connecting it to Hinesburg in the future. Ray mentioned that there may be a current or former VAST trail leading from Mt Philo to Hinesburg. Oren will find out more about the CTC's idea and we will discuss it further at the next meeting.
13. **Updates to Map 13** – Oren suggested we review our wish list for future trails and discuss at the next meeting if any should be added to this map.
14. **Signs for the Thistle Hill Trail** – Oren mentioned that we need signs for the Sullivan and the Paul's Trails, which connect Thistle Hill to the Russell Trails. Jane said she thought Tom Carlson

had installed signs for Paul's Trail. Bret and Chic will check to see what signs are there when they scout the Russell Perimeter's muddy sections.

15. **Baldwin Road Trail** – This newest trail, which eventually will connect Leavensworth Road to the UVM property on Baldwin Road, has one section cleared by Ray last fall. That part needs more work to clear the ground of sapling and brush stumps. Ray offered to contact Thad Halsmer about extending the trail along the easement on Thad's property.
16. **Gilman Road Parking Area** – Adjacent landowner, Craig Chevrier, has complained to Renae about continued problems with hikers' dogs on his property and lack of privacy. He suggested that the town should install fencing or shrubbery. We reviewed aerial maps of the area but were not clear on where the exact property boundary was. Oren will contact Renae to see if we can get that cleared up before we make any recommendation.
17. **Russel's Ramble** – The International Trail in the HTF has been renamed to Russel's Ramble. We will need to update the maps and signs. This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.
18. **Record Articles** – Since the last meeting Jane wrote the article for March, Colin for April and Peter for May. Oren mentioned that his wife Anthea will be writing the article for June, the deadline for which is June 11th. There is no issue in July.
19. **Maps** – Jane reviewed the list of kiosks and who is responsible for stocking the map holders.
  - a. Jane – HTF, Hayden Hill East and West
  - b. Peter – HTF, Economou Road and NE Quadrant, Texas Hill entrance
  - c. Chic – NEQ, Magee Hill and Sleepy Hollow
  - d. Colin – Russell Trails and Geprags
  - e. Nick – LaPlatte, Gilman Road and Lewis Creek

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17th... hopefully in person.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary