



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2020

- Approved 8/19/20 -

Remote Meeting Held via Zoom

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer, Colin Hunt, Oren Guttmann, Bret Golann

Regrets: Nick Certo

Guest: Pat Mainer

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

- 1. Minutes** – Jane reported that Oren had made two corrections to the previous draft minutes, spelling of his wife's name and who contacted him re the Natural Resource Inventory Map. Peter made a motion to accept the May minutes as amended. Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – The TC currently has \$382.87 available, which will expire June 30th. Ray offered to pick up supplies at Home Depot and Oren offered his trailer to deliver it. Chic mentioned he will be spending a small amount on stakes for the Russell Trail signage and will let Oren know the total. The \$500 which was allocated by the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee (HTFC) may be needed to fix damage to the Eagle's Trail in the HTF now that logging has been completed. Pat mentioned that any additional logging would be delayed until 2021 at the earliest, due to concerns about the pandemic. Chic and Colin offered to scout the Eagle's trail and report back what work, if any, needed to be done. The \$500 does not have an expiration date.
- 3. Trails Committee Vacancy** – There is one open spot on our committee. We agreed that the current number of 8 is working well so we do not need to actively recruit to fill it.
- 4. The HTF** – There is a need to replace or improve the signs in the HTF. Ray said that the sign for International should be replaced by the new name, Russel's Ramble and offered to construct a new one. Jane mentioned that there was a sign which had been defaced by marker, where the Eagle Trail is rerouted onto Homestead. Peter reported that the Economou Road entrance had been greatly improved. The gullies on the connector from the end of the town road to the parking lot had been filled with packed gravel, and the most egregious mounds in the parking area had been leveled substantially. *(See Item 2 for maintenance details)*

5. Russell Trails –

- a. Chic checked the Thistle Hill trails connecting to the Russell Trails and found that all had clear signs posted. He also mentioned that there was no place to park and that any logical places were marked with No Parking signs. Jane reported that she was fairly sure that public access was part of the permitting process when that development went through the approval process. She will check with Alex to find out.
- b. The muddy area discussed at last month's meeting is too long to adequately solve the problem with puncheons. Bret suggested installing water bars to help drainage. Due to the slope of the trail, some of the bars may need to drain into James Donegan's pasture. Chic and Bret will scout out the area and determine if this is necessary. If so, Chic will contact James to get his approval. Colin offered to help build the water bars if this project moved forward.

6. Copp-Welch Loop – Nick was not present to report on if he'd been in touch with Andy Roomet.

7. Lewis Creek Trail – Colin has provided Kathy Furr with the easement documents so she can look over the wording. He will continue to follow up with her.

8. Path to Rec Field – Oren is going to meet Tom Giroux and Bill Lippert, State Representative, this Saturday morning at the Rec Field to discuss the access from Route 116. There needs to be improvement at the 116 end, but since it is a state road we are hoping Bill can help negotiate.

9. Richmond Road Walkway – The intersection of North Road, Richmond Road and Texas Hill Road has been under review by the town. Alex Weinhausen had posted the results of the scoping study on Front Porch Forum, which showed several options for improvement, from 4-way stop signs to a roundabout. Included in the diagrams was mention of a Richmond Road pedestrian/bike path. There will be an "open house" via Zoom on Thursday, 6/25 at 7pm. Jane will attend to check to see if this path is the start of the longer access from CVU to North Road which had been studied last year.

10. Story Walk – Jane reported that the TC plan for a Story Walk in June was postponed because the Carpenter Carse Library (CCL) was holding one that month. Jen Amsbury from the library contacted Jane to determine if there was a connection yet from CCL to Geprags that could be used. Jane explained that we had hoped to have one by now, but had to delay meetings with the landowners involved due to the pandemic. Jane suggested that they contact Kate Kelly of the Conservation Commission to see if there was any conflict in starting the walk from Geprag's parking area instead.

11. Harry Russell Trail Easement – Chic had sent an email to Harry regarding formalizing the easement, cc'ing Lenore Budd. So far, no response. Chic will follow up.

12. Baldwin Road Trail – Ray says he needs to mow the trail again as well as to contact Thad Halsmer about extending the trail along the easement on Thad's property.

13. Gilman Road Parking Area – Adjacent landowner, Craig Chevrier, has complained to the town about continued problems with hikers' and their dogs on his property and lack of privacy. Earlier today Oren, Jane and Chic, along with Renae Marshall, met with Craig in the parking lot to review his issues and see what suggestions he had. He said he thought the problem could be solved by planting some fast-growing trees in two spots along the trail from the parking lot to the woods, which provided the most access to hikers and dogs. Oren will contact Paul Wieczoreck, with whom Craig had previously consulted, to see what the cost of doing so would be. At tonight's meeting we also decided to add for better signs regarding leashing dogs and staying on the path, as well as mowing the path as far away from Craig's property as the town property boundary would allow. When the grass is not as high as it is now, staking the path to give hikers a clearer understanding of where the path is was also discussed.

14. Record Articles – Zippy Guttmann wrote the article for June. Since there is no issue published in July the next article will be for the August issue, the deadline for which is August 13th. Bret offered to write that article.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15th... again, hopefully in person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary