



## Trails Committee

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

---

### Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2020

*-Approved-*

Meeting Held via Zoom

**Present:** Jane Sheldon, Colin Hunt, Oren Guttman, Bret Golann, Nick Certo

**Regrets:** Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer

**Guest:** Chris Rivard (potential TC member)

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

1. **Minutes** – Oren made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting. Jane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Oren had purchased lumber at the end of June, so the total unused funds for the 2019/2020 fiscal year was only \$54.52. The TC has been allocated \$1000 for the fiscal year 2020/2021. We also have \$500 which was offered by the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee (HTFC) for any maintenance needed on the Eagle's Trail in the HTF. The \$500 does not have an expiration date.
3. **Trails Committee Vacancy** – There is one open spot on our committee. Chris Rivard signed in to our meeting tonight to see if he might be interested in joining. If yes, he will contact Oren to get the procedure to get Select Board approval. In any case he has agreed to be added to our volunteer worker list.
4. **Town Hall Liaison** – Oren mentioned that when Lenore was on the TC we had an automatic set of eyes and ears as to what was being discussed on the DRB or other meetings where items of interest to the TC would be reviewed. He asked if someone on the TC would be willing to be a designated liaison with Lenore and/or the Town Hall, so we didn't miss some relevant opportunities e.g. to obtain easements.
5. **Signage on Trails** – There are several places where signs have been lost to downed trees, damaged and need replacing, or never existed. Oren showed a photo of one for the Sullivan Trail that was thought to have been gnawed at by animals. Jane said the extensive damage looked more like gunshot. She had also sent a photo to Oren and Chic a few weeks ago of a sign for the

Eagle's Trail that had been defaced when it was rerouted onto Homestead. Ray was going to replace the ones for International to reflect the new name, Russell's Ramble, so Oren will check with him to see if he can also make the replacement for the Sullivan and Eagle's reroute.

6. **Maps** – The question came up as to whether maps were still needed to be available at kiosks given the fact that so many people have smart phones. Jane mentioned that she often was thanked by hikers or mountain bikers when she met them while restocking, and that she was concerned not everyone “of a certain age” would have a smart phone. There's also the question of cell reception. Jane offered to contact Lenore and see if there was a way to get an annual cost estimate for printing them. There may be a rationale for providing maps for the HTF since it has so many interconnecting and not well marked trails. The need for maps vis a vis lack of signage will be discussed further at the next meeting.
7. **Furr/Roomet Trail** – Colin reported that Andy Roomet had finally been reached and although he has had hikers on his land, he is not willing to give formal permission. Unfortunately, dog owners are not respectful of picking up after their pets, and some people have left trash. As a result, the only additional trail using Kathy Furr's land would be a spur from the Copp-Welch Loop (CWL) to her backyard. Therefore, we have decided not to pursue this project. However, Colin will investigate if there is a way for hikers to get from the CWL through her property to Silver Street which would bring them out near Isham Road. This would add another segment to our attempt to connect with Baldwin Road.
8. **Path to Rec Field** – Oren met with Tom Giroux and Bill Lippert last month to discuss the access from Route 116. There needs to be improvement at the 116 end, so people don't have to climb a steep incline onto a very narrow shoulder into traffic. The conclusion was that the builder of the Phase I development behind Kinney Drug needs to extend the sidewalk over Patrick Brook to connect with the Rec Field path, as per written agreement. Oren will write a letter to the Select Board asking for action to be taken on this project and remind them that the builder should not be allowed to start any new development until he has fulfilled that agreement.
9. **Richmond Road Walkway** – Jane attended a Zoom meeting about the revisions to the intersection at North Road, Richmond Road and Texas Hill, to check to see if the diagrams shown on-line did, in fact, include a segment for the Richmond Rd pedestrian access. Alex Weinhagen told her that even though it would be only a few hundred feet it was going to be budgeted into this project. However, Brett got a different impression. Since she left the meeting earlier than Bret, Jane will contact Alex again to double check.
10. **Tree Down in Geprags** – Chris mentioned that he found a tree down on one of the connector trails in Geprags. Colin offered to contact Kate Kelly to report it.
11. **Russell Trails** - The issue of the lack of drainage on the southeast side of the Perimeter Trail may be more than the TC should tackle. Bret noted that water bars would drain mud and silt into the

pasture below, possibly causing erosion. He suggested getting some expert advice as to what the optimal solution would be. Oren suggested the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC) might be willing to come and look at the situation. Bret offered to contact that group. We hope to get a plan in place this fall so we can start work in the spring.

**12. Record Articles** – Bret has submitted the article for August. Jane offered to write the one for the September issue. If anyone has any ideas for a topic, she welcomes any suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, most likely via Zoom again.

**NOTE:** Subsequent to this meeting Chic and Ray reported that during this summer they had accomplished, or were in the process of working on, the following:

- **Hinesburg Town Forest** - Ray is making a sign for the east end of Russell's Ramble and plans to install it soon. He repaired the broken plank on the second bridge on the Eagle's Trail. The first bridge on the Eagle's Trail needs some work and he has it on his to-do list.

In June Chic cut the trail from the Economou trail head until he ran out of gas. The next day he returned to saw down the two trees that were blocking the trail and finished cutting the trail to the Homestead intersection. He was also able to cut the two meadows that are accessible from the Hayden East trail head. He then recut all those trails again earlier in August.

- **Russell Trails** – Chic replaced both the top and bottom Overlook “trial closed” signs. He also re-cut all the trails earlier in August, including Passing the Buck, and lopped all the encroaching buckthorn he encountered, mostly on the Buck Hill spur. He reported that someone has been doing some lopping and cutting back the cattails on the bridge (maybe Tom Carlson and/or Lenore).

Ray also reported that there were four PT planks on the trail (up by Harry's) left from a few springs ago. They are no longer there and asked if someone from the TC used them.

- **Geprags** – In June Chic cut the Hill Spur Trail to the woods and contacted Kate Kelly about the mowing by Wahl Landscaping that needed to be corrected. Wahl mowed again in early August so Chic recut the Hill Spur. He reports that Wahl will now be mowing three times a year.
- **LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest** - Chic reported that he has received an email from Peter Van Vranken about mowing the meadow in LHTE which had been forwarded to him by Lenore. He offered to check with VT F&W to see about their plans.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary