



Trails Committee

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

Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2020

- Approved 10/21/20 -

Remote Meeting Held via Zoom

Present: Jane Sheldon, Colin Hunt, Oren Guttmann, Nick Certo, Chic McArthur, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer

Regrets: Bret Golann

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

1. **Minutes** – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes from the August meeting. Jane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – The TC has been allocated \$1000 for the fiscal year 2020/2021. Nothing has been spent since the start of the fiscal year. 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** – Chris Rivard, who had attended last month's meeting, has started the paperwork to get the Select Board's approval to join the TC. We hope to be able to welcome him to the October meeting.
4. **Hinesburg Center Phase II** – Peter reviewed the material which he had sent to us before the meeting. He reported that the town's Official Map shows the trail, that we are recommending be formalized with an easement, dovetailing with the VAST trail, entering Creekside Lot 31. Peter made a motion that the TC endorses this route and to ask the DRB for an easement which would allow all non-motorized use, except for snowmobiles. Jane made a motion to accept this recommendation, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. Peter will liaise with the DRB to attain the easement with the property owner. Chic asked that Peter remind the DRB that the developer still is required to build a bridge to extend the sidewalk past Kinney Drug, over Patrick Brook.

5. **Maps** –

- a. **Need For:** In last month's meeting we discussed if paper maps were needed to be stocked at the trailheads, in this day of smart phones when maps could be downloaded

from the town website. Chic pointed out that we also provide full size maps at all kiosks and said he was unaware of any other state or local departments which provided paper maps. Oren said he'd seen them at Mud Pond. Since that meeting Jane had contacted several groups involved with the HART system. Kate Kelly, chair of the Conservation Commission, reported that the CC did not feel the maps were that important in Geprags, as it was small enough not to get lost. Pat Mainer, chair of the Town Forest Committee, reported that their group did feel they were very useful, given the size and complexity of the HTF system. Jane also checked with the Hinesburg Fire Dept to see if they had any concerns regarding finding lost or injured hikers. Eric Spivak of the HFD said as far as his experience the maps had not played a role in finding anyone, but noted that there was no way of knowing how many fewer rescues were needed because hikers did not get lost. Jane suggested she contact Kate Kelly to see if we could use Geprags as a test area to discontinue stocking maps. Oren will put a little sign on the map box to have people email him their thoughts on maps in the box. If there is any negative feedback to the CC or TC we can start stocking them again.

- b. **Cost Of:** Oren reported that the estimated cost of one letter size, color print page is \$0.12. The estimated number of maps that the town prints is 1100 per year so the estimated cost for the year would be \$132.

6. **Russell Trails** – It was reported that the bridge on to Lavigne Hill Road has some broken boards. The decking was previously replaced in 2016. Ray will take a look and fix it.

7. **LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest** - Peter VanVranken had asked Chic if the hidden meadow was going to be mowed this year. Chic responded that the VT Fish and Wildlife only mowed it every 2 or 3 years to allow habitat for ground nesting birds. We are allowed to mow the perimeter only. Peter mentioned that there were some downed trees on the trail to the hidden meadow and on the southeastern loop and others hanging over the trail which probably could not be safely downed. Oren offered to walk in to get a scope of what the TC could do.

8. **Scavenger Hunt** – Jane had researched the possibility of holding a scavenger hunt, the purpose of which was to get younger kids into and familiar with the HART trails. She spoke to former TC member, Sue Rusten, who explained the amount of organizing it takes and that the turnout had not been high. Participation could be very weather dependent, however. Jane will continue to look for other events to encourage youth usage.

9. **Record Articles** – Jane wrote the article for the September issue, Oren offered to write the one due October 15th and Nick did so for the one due November 13th.

10. **Long Term Planning** – Oren asked us to think about what goals we should set for the future. He suggested that we think about 1-year and 5-year objectives to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary