



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2020

- Approved 11/18/2020 -

Meeting Held via Zoom

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

**Regrets:** Nick Certo

**Guest:** Pat Mainer

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

1. **Minutes** – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting as amended by Chic. Colin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Nothing has been spent since the start of the fiscal year, so our fund total is \$1000. 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. Oren asked if the cost of signing up for Zoom meetings was taken out of our budget. Jane said she'd check with Missy.
3. **New Member** – Chris Rivard has been approved by the Select Board so is now officially a member of the TC. Welcome Chris!
4. **Hinesburg Center Phase 2** – Peter reported that he has been in touch with Mitch Cypes and Lenore Budd regarding making sure that there is sufficient pedestrian access in this next phase of development. He is working on a graphic which would map our suggested routes and has asked Eric Engstrom of the VAST group to do the same for the snowmobile trails. He is also working on a letter to the DRB that will detail the easement we want, and a draft easement based on a standard template that has been modified to describe the specific trails desired in Hinesburg Center II. Mitch Cypes told Peter that we should approach the developer with such a draft and graphics and, since it is expected, he did not anticipate any resistance as long as our proposed trails do not stand in the way of anything that he proposes to build. Jane reminded everyone that based on the agreement in Phase 1, there still needs to be a bridge built extending the sidewalk from Kinney Drugs, over Patrick Brook and connecting to the mowed

part from Route 116 to the Rec fields. Peter will check to see if a lack of that bridge would affect the approval of Phase 2.

5. **Paper Maps** – Chic revised the topic of whether we should be providing paper maps at the kiosks. He is concerned that it is not eco-friendly and is costly. He stated that the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation or VT Fish and Wildlife don't provide paper trail maps at any of its kiosks. Neither do the towns of Burlington, Richmond, Colchester, Bolton and Middlebury. Based on costs from Staples the total is estimated at roughly \$200-\$400/year. Peter pointed out that trail users would need to know to plan ahead if they were to print out maps at home, and that those of a certain age weren't comfortable with the technology needed to download to a smart phone. Pat Mainer suggested looking into an app called Avenza which allows hikers to pinpoint their location. Chic said he'd investigate to see if this app is appropriate for our trails.
6. **Belisle Property** – Oren reported that Jeri Belisle asked him to scout out some possible trails on 106 acres of property that her brother bought off Mechanicsville Rd, adjacent to the cemetery there. She met Oren and family and showed him some trails already in that area, plus some additional possibilities on other land. Oren showed us a map of the most easily navigated paths, one of which would connect the Sullivan Trail in the Russell system to Red Pine Road. Chic pointed out that it might also be helpful in connecting to the old mill ruins from the cemetery. He reported that the property was adjacent to the cemetery and that Jeri was on the Cemetery Commission. Oren will stay in touch with her and report on any developments.
7. **Annual Report** – Joy Grossman had contacted Oren to ask that the TC submit the update/status report for the town's annual report. The deadline is December 13<sup>th</sup>. Jane will work on a draft and submit it to the committee for revisions.
8. **TC Goals and Pursuits** – There was brief discussion of ongoing projects such as the Baldwin Rd trail, Bucky's Pub to Geprags connector and updating the town map. More general goals were increasing public awareness with community hikes and adding kid-centric programming, such as nature hikes and scavenger hunts. Peter suggested, and Oren and others agreed, that perhaps the most important strategic long-term goal is to build out the trail network with easements or permissions for additional interconnecting trails.
9. **Record Articles** – Nick is writing the article for the November issue, due 11/13. Colin is writing the article for January, due 1/14. There is no issue published in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary