



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2020

- Approved 12/16/2020 -

Meeting Held via Zoom

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

Guest: Pat Mainer, Pat Frazier

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

1. **Minutes** – Chic made a motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting as amended by Chic and Oren. Ray seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Two expenses have been submitted to Missy for reimbursement. Oren has spent \$45 to host Zoom and Chic has spent \$21.38 for QR labels. Oren is investigating whether the cost of Zoom will be taken out of our budget or whether the town is paying for all committees' expenses. We had been allotted \$1000 for the 2020/21 fiscal year. Oren will ask Joy if we can request that amount for the 2021/22 fiscal year.
3. **Hinesburg Center Phase 2** – Peter presented a map of the recommended easements that the TC will be requesting from the developer. It will connect with the VAST trail via the Farmall Drive extension somewhere through the proposed Community Garden. Peter will provide Oren with a letter to Mitch Cypes explaining our recommendation and ask that they be put in touch with the developer.
4. **Avenza** – Chic investigated several on-line trail map app companies and determined that Avenza was the best fit for Hinesburg. He has printed out QR code labels and attached them to the trailhead kiosks in all 5 HART systems. Trail users can now use their smart phones to download trail maps which will also track where they are on the trails. He has also affixed labels which will enable users to download the town trail maps without the tracking ability.
5. **Geprags Connector** – The owner of Bucky's Pub would prefer not to have a path from his property connecting the library to Geprags near his neighbors to the west. We discussed other

access points including scouting out the option of starting to the east of the pub, heading north and connecting to the old Lupine Meadow Trail. Colin will lead this effort and alert other members when he can arrange a scouting visit. Chic also pointed out that he and Lenore had scoped out a trail from Shelburne Falls Road, which will need an extension of the sidewalk in order to be viable.

6. **Annual Report** – Jane worked on a draft and Oren made suggestion to the report the TC is submitting for town’s annual report. She will send it out to the rest of the committee for their input.
7. **Record Articles** – Nick wrote the article for this month’s issue explaining the availability of the QR codes and how to use them. The Record does not publish in December, and Colin has offered to write the one for January.
8. **Town Forest Committee** – Pat Mainer reported that there is logging planned for the winter of 2021/22 which will take place in the Maiden and Russell Ramble areas. She also reported that The Fellowship of the Wheel (FotW) had asked the Town Forest Committee (TFC) if they could replace two trails which are no longer navigable due to heavy blow-downs. This would provide novice, family friendly bike trails again. There has been some discussion among TFC members whether to close all trails in the town forest, or at a minimum Dragon’s Tail and Passing the Horizon, so Pat asked the TC’s opinion. Peter pointed out that the forest’s charter includes the use for recreation. Pat also explained that several expert reviews had found that trail use had no impact on water quality, and at least one had recommended the addition of more amenities.

The TC is in favor of keeping the trails open. Jane made a motion that the Trails Committee strongly encourages the Town Forest Committee to maintain access to the current trails and favors building new ones to replace Nature Boy and Boneyard, previously closed due to damage. Bret seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary