



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2020

- Approved 1/27/2021 -

Meeting Held via Zoom

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

Regrets: Nick Certo

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

1. **Minutes** – Ray made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting. Colin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Oren attended the recent Select Board meeting to request a budget of \$1000 for the fiscal year 2021/2022. That request was granted. There is still some question as to whether the cost of our Zoom meetings should be taken out of our budget or paid for by the town. Oren will keep in touch with Missy and Joy to resolve the issue. As it stands now we have \$883.28 left in our budget.
3. **Annual Report** – Jane, Oren and Chic finalized TC's report for the town's annual report and Jane submitted it to Joy.
4. **Term Expirations** – Peter and Nick's terms are up at the end of the month. Peter has agreed to another 3-year term. Oren will check in with Nick.
5. **Hinesburg Center Phase 2** – Peter recently sent an email to the developer, a reply for which has not yet been received. Because of the holiday season the email may get overlooked so Peter and Oren will follow up with a mailed letter. The letter will include a package of documents regarding our request for easements, including maps specifying our proposed route and the DRB will be cc'd.
6. **Geprags Connector** – Colin, Jane and Pat Frazier met and scouted out a possible route on the east side of Bucky's Pub, parallel to Route 116, that would provide a route for library patrons to access Geprags Park. There is a possibility to construct one if needed. However, upon leaving,

they ran into Tony, the owner of Bucky's. He reported that the neighbor who objected to the originally proposed route had moved and the new owner may be more amenable. The route on the west side would be much easier to construct and maintain. Colin will liaise with the new owner.

7. **HTF Maps Update** – Oren and Chic have installed seven laminated trail maps with “you are here” arrows at some of the more confusing intersections in the HTF. Oren also reported that the HTFC had approved the building of two new novice-level bike paths in the HTF, which the TC had supported at last month's meeting. The FoTW will start work in the spring and would welcome any help from TC members.
8. **Russell Trail Closure** – James Donegan notified Oren that next week the road from the greenhouses to the sugar house will be closed for two days to install a new culvert. As soon as the dates are finalized Oren will post a notice on FPF. James will be putting up signs as well.
9. **Clearing Dead Trees** – Bret reported that he had cleared a tree which had fallen on and was blocking the Buck Hill trail to the Russell system. He asked what the restrictions, if any, were placed on this type of work, e.g., how far off the trail we are allowed to clear. Chic said that the TC has permission and is expected to maintain access on any easements we have obtained. Peter reported that an easement is 50' across so there should be no issue with clearing too wide a path.
10. **Eagle's Trail Binder** – Lenore passed on a binder to Colin relating to work planned or completed on the Eagle's Trail. He will review the contents and see if there is any action that needs to be taken, then give the binder to Jane for storage with the other documents Lenore provided her.
11. **Google Drive** – Chris suggested that we centralize our documents in Google Drive. He demonstrated some of its features and we agreed to try it out. Jane suggested that we make sure we set up enough files and sub files to be able to locate items quickly. She will work with Chris to set up a trial run.
12. **Record Articles** – The Record does not publish in December. Colin has offered to write the one for January and is looking for suggestions for topics.
13. **Work Projects for 2021** – Assuming the pandemic will have subsided enough for group workdays by spring, we discussed these additional projects that should be prioritized for the year.
 - a. **Baldwin Road-Leavensworth Road Connector** – Ray has done work on his own keeping the section he previously cleared from growing back and has worked with David Carse to clear some debris at either end of that property. The next step is to liaise with Thad Halsmer to discuss the plans we have for the easement across his property, which Ray offered to do. We may need to purchase more materials to construct a bridge over a

brook on the Halsmer easement, as well as a style over a fence at the Halsmer/Carse border.

- b. Russell Trail** – Bret suggested he get in touch with Justin Geibel of the VYCC to show him the issue with mud and erosion on the southern section of the perimeter trail. Hopefully we can eventually get the group's help in mitigating the problem.
- c. LaVigne Hill Class IV Road** – Depending on the situation with Covid in the spring we may be able to get the CVU kids in the RISE program to finish the work started by the VYCC to make this section passable again.

14. Town-Wide Trail and Dirt Road Map – Peter asked if it were possible to produce a map of Hinesburg on Avenza that would allow the TC to highlight not only the park and forest trails, but the connections to them on dirt roads. This would provide a comprehensive walkability map. Chris offered to work with Peter on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary