



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2021

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Meeting Held via Zoom

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

**Guest:** Pat Mainer, Patterson Frazier

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

1. **Minutes** – Chic made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – Oren reported that we have approximately \$900 left in our budget, and that the TC is no longer having to reimburse him for the monthly Zoom subscription. We are now using the town's membership.
3. **Hinesburg Center Phase 2** – Peter reported that the letter the TC submitted to the DRB had been accepted, and the provisions for easements and the bridge over Patrick Brook past Kinney's had been included as a condition for continued development. Peter will continue to monitor DRB meeting minutes to ensure that these requirements are met.
4. **Geprags Connector** – Colin reported that he had been in touch with Nicole Connelly the new owner of the property adjoining Bucky's Pub. She has concerns about the placement of the proposed trail, re dogs in particular, but is willing to discuss the issues with us. She asked that Tony St Hillaire also be included in any discussions. Colin will set up a meeting, either virtual or in person when possible, and Chic offered to attend as well.
5. **Lewis Creek Parking** – The parking area for the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF) only fits 3 cars. As a result, users of this entrance have been parking along the side of Lewis Creek. There has been a complaint from a farmer who reported that he cannot get by those cars in his farm machinery. He asked if parking could be banned there. Since this is a town issue, Oren will

contact Joy to see if this is an option and to find out which department would be responsible for installing them.

6. **Town Forest Mud Season Signage** – Pat Mainer reported that the Town Forest Committee (TFC) had decided not to install “closed for mud season” signs again this year. Instead, they will promote the idea of responsible use on Front Porch Forum and other media.
7. **Logging in the Town Forest** – Pat also reported that forest management efforts would start up again next winter. The goal of this logging is to make the forest more resilient to stresses such as the Ash Borer and climate change. Work in Stand #14 would impact trail use off the Hayden Hill East entrance. She reported that Ethan Tapper, County Forester, mentioned that it’s possible that the parking lot at HHE will not need to be closed during that time. Colin offered to liaise with Ethan to review the layout of the trails and the routes the logging trucks and machinery would take. If parking can remain, the TC needs to recommend a plan for which trails can stay open, and which need to be closed and when. Micky Stone of Fellowship of the Wheel should also be included in this discussion. Pat will be cc’d on the draft of the plan, which needs to be finalized before summer.

## 8. Work Projects

- a. LaPlatte Headwaters –
  - i. Bissonette Loop - Chic mentioned that Peter VanVranken had stocked some lumber at entrance to the hidden meadow for the purpose of building puncheons in the muddy sections of the Bissonette Loop. Chic offered to check on how much was there, determine if more material was needed and organize a work party to build the puncheons.
  - ii. Ravine Trail – Ray will work on getting permanent “Trail Closed” signs for both ends of this trail.
- b. Baldwin Road/Leavensworth Road Connector – Ray has been in contact with Thad Halsmer, who has agreed to meet to review our plans of constructing a trail along the easement in his property. Oren will also attend.
- c. Russell Trails – Brett is going to meet with Justin Geibel on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. to see what can be done regarding draining the southeast section on the Perimeter Trail. Chic offered to attend and suggested that Justin take a look at the other area to the north, which also tends to be muddy. Oren reported that he had checked with a friend with an excavator who had agreed to dig the trenches if that was feasible. If Justin gives the thumbs up, the TC will check with James Donegan to get permission and make sure it doesn’t interfere with his farming operations.
- d. LaVigne Hill – With so many other projects in the pipeline this coordinated project with the VYCC will be given low priority.

- 9. Town Pedestrian Access Grant** – A scoping study had been conducted a few years ago to determine the feasibility of installing a sidewalk on Richmond Road, from North Road to the start of CVU road – deemed the most densely populated areas of the town. This study was a collaborative effort between Hinesburg’s Planning and Zoning Department, the Trails Committee, the CCRPC, and Toole Design Group. The estimated cost came to \$2.25M and it was decided that the project was not viable at the time. Tonight Chic reminded us that Senator Leahy had obtained \$200M for Vermont’s infrastructure improvements and suggested that some of this might be able to be used to move the project forward. The Trails Committee all agreed that we should endeavor to use our best efforts to acquire the funds to compete this project. Chic will write a letter for our review to send once we determine the best contact.
- 10. Google Drop Box** – Chris reviewed what had been set up for our starting to store files digitally. Some of us will need a tutorial session on how to access and use this technology. Oren said that Lenore had provided him with a thumb drive with a large number of files, which can be added as needed.
- 11. Student Request** – Connor Brien, a CVU sophomore, has contacted Oren asking if he can start working with us to add some paths to the HART system as his Senior Graduation Project. He lives on North Road and reports that there are some old VAST trails east of there, which he thinks could be developed. Oren will work with him to identify which landowners are involved, for future permission requirements, and to GPS the proposed trails.
- 12. Record** - Patterson is interested in joining the TC so was asked if he would write the article for the April Hinesburg Record, which is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Jane will stay in contact with him to help him on this first project. Oren offered to write the article for the May issue, due May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary