



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2018

- Approved 1/16/19 -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Chic McArthur, Lenore Budd, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley, Ray Mainer, George Dameron

Guest: Jacob Royer, Rich Gaiotti, Bret Golann, Ray Nails, Geoff Gevalt

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Minutes** – Lenore made one correction to the October minutes. Peter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Chic seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – There has been one expense since the last meeting, \$30 for two map holders, so our available funds are now at \$720.
- 3. Richmond Road Project** – Ray Nails lives on Richmond Road and attended to express his interest in seeing the sidewalk project move forward. He had approached the Select Board to find out the status after the scoping study and was told that the costs were a barrier at this point. Lenore mentioned that we might be able to get a grant if the town was willing to pay 20%, which at the time of the study would have been \$500k to \$520k. Ray offered to get involved with what ever steps needed to see if this could be done. Lenore suggested that a sub-committee would be appropriate to keep the project moving forward. As a first step she will find out how to put an item on the Town Meeting agenda and what the deadline is, the idea being to assess citizen support for the Select Board committing to identifying and funding a mechanism to get the project done.
- 4. UPWP Grant** – Alex Weinhausen had requested that the Committee confirm its support for updating the 2006 scoping study to extend a sidewalk from Commerce Street to Mechanicsville Road. The consensus of the Committee was that the Richmond Road sidewalk project is a higher budgetary priority.
- 5. Update on Lincoln Hill to Hollow Road** – Lenore presented a map of a potential route she scouted this fall. The route follows existing logging roads and snowmobile trails. The two-mile route involves several landowners but primarily is on VT F&W land. She pointed out that one

parcel was donated to VTF&W by the Hinesburg Land Trust which retains a public pedestrian access easement. The Committee gave the go ahead to approach VT F&W for permission and, if they agree, approach the other landowners.

6. **Conservation Commission Mapping Proposal** – Lenore discussed the proposal sent to us by the CC for review. There would be some value to the TC from data collected and keeping the data updated. The initial cost was discussed and the possibility of using some of the leftover gas pipeline money was raised. The CC is asking us for a letter of support for their proposal and Lenore will draft up a response.
7. **Dog-free Trail** – George suggested that we approach the CC to see if there is some way to set aside a trail which does not allow dogs, so people who do not use the trails because of their presence would have a place to walk. Lenore suggested that before he do that, we take a survey of residents to see if there is a strong enough need for it. Jane and George will draft up a questionnaire and review it with the rest of the committee.
8. **Forestry Hike** – Lenore, Chic and Peter attended the walk in the HTF where Ethan Tapper, County Forester, Ethan Tapper explained the goals and methods of the logging now underway. All agreed it was very informative.
9. **Winter Party in Geprags** – On Sunday, February 10th, the Conservation Commission is organizing a Winter Party in Geprags. The TC was asked to get involved by setting up luminaries along a path. Lenore also suggested setting up a Story Walk with Annette's Preschool. Jane offered to liaise with Annette's.
10. **Current Task List** – Chic reported that there are trees over paths in the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest. Lenore said that Peter VanVranken may have already found and taken care of these, but she will check with him. Chic also noted that there was a log over the Eagles Trail. Lenore thought that the logging operation would take care of that as they would need access at that spot.
11. **Record Articles** – Lenore is writing the article for the January issue of the Record. We will need someone to volunteer for February's.
12. **Outgoing Members** – Stewart Pierson and Sue Rusten are leaving at the end of the year. Neither was able to attend tonight so we thanked them for their many years of service in absentia. Stewart had been one of the original members and a past Chair of this committee. Sue's organizational skills, enthusiasm and willingness to take on any duty were invaluable over the many years she served. They will both be missed.
13. **New Committee Members** – There were four guests who attended due to interest in possibly joining the committee. We discussed the responsibilities and requirements of membership, and

answered their questions. Lenore explained the steps they would need to take to get Select Board approval if they wished to move forward with joining.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary