



## Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2019

- Approved 3/20/19 -

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

**Regrets:** Bret Golann

**Guest:** Adam Cook, Nick Certo

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

1. **Minutes** – Ray made one correction to the January minutes to correct a name spelling. Peter made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Oren seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** – There has been one expenditure of \$30 for luminaries since the last meeting, so our funds are currently at \$690.
3. **Snowdog Grooming** – The Town Forest Committee has voted not to accept Bill Flack's offer to groom trails in the Hinesburg Town Forest at this time. Chic will be in touch with Bill re grooming the Russell Trail system if we get enough more snow to warrant it.
4. **Dog Survey** – Jane reported that the survey had been finalized, but will check to make sure that the last suggestions by Lenore were included and will forward the final result to her. We will set up a table at the March 4<sup>th</sup> town meeting to intercept perspective respondents and ask them to fill out the survey. We will also use this opportunity to talk to residents about the trails system, volunteering etc. Chic, George and Peter volunteered to help staff the table. Lenore will provide maps to hand out. Jane will bring surveys and the banners. Lenore also mentioned that the town has access to Survey Monkey to use if we want to follow up on the results of the paper survey.
5. **Signage for Geprags** - George reported that Mike Bissonnette had given us permission to install signs re the dog leash law. He and Jane will investigate what signage is available on-line.

### 6. Task List

- a. **LaPlatte Headwaters** – The Hemingway reroute may be easier to scout with frozen ground, so Oren offered to do that soon. He also reported that the new reroute around the old “chasm” needs benching in a steep part. Lenore suggested that a larger reroute of that stretch may work better. Puncheons are needed on the Bissonnette loop, which will be a good project for National Trails Day (NTD). Andy Weiss contacted Lenore and volunteered to help investigate opening a trail connection between the Hidden Meadow and Silver Street. Oren and Lenore will try to scout out these projects at one time. Ray will repair the sign at the Gilman Road entrance.
- b. **Russell Trails** – Lenore reported that new houses may be added to New South Farm, which might provide an opportunity to improve the Russell spur trail and trailhead parking at the bottom of Buck Hill Road West.
- c. **Thistle Hill** – Improving drainage and lopping might be a good project for NTD. Lenore offered to scout out what needs are there.
- d. **Passing the Buck** – Lenore will continue to follow up on obtaining easements here.
- e. **Geprags Park** – When the snow is gone Lenore will get Conservation Commission approval of the flagged reroute for the Hill Spur Trail. She also mentioned that there is a trail easement from Place Road West to the north side of Geprags Park, which may be able to be developed into a trail simply by mowing.
- f. **Connecting CVU Trails to Place Road** – Oren mentioned that there are several trails behind CVU that might connect to Place Road. If we got the connection mentioned in e. we would increase our connectivity even further. Ray will contact Ray Bliss at CVU to see if we need permission to add their trails to the HART system, put up blazes etc.
- g. **Town Forest** – Water bars need to be cleaned but it is too time consuming to be a NTD project. It was suggested we make this another day’s work party.
- h. **NE Quadrant** – Lenore will check to see if the tree which was hanging over Diane Brigham’s land has come down over the winter. John Villieux had volunteered to remove it before that trail opens in May.
- i. **Rec Field** – Signs from Route 116 need to be replaced. Alex has notified Bret Gabrowski (developer of housing behind Kinney Drug) that Bret needs to construct the sidewalk on the west side of Route 116, past Kinney Drugs, to connect with the Rec field, as required.
- j. **Bridge over Patrick Brook on east side of Route 116** – Lenore reported that bids are being taken to extend the sidewalk from Commerce St to Riggs Rd over the brook, so this project should begin this summer.
- k. **Fred Johnson Wildlife Management** – VT Fish & Wildlife will not allow a HART trail through the Fred Johnson Wildlife Management Area so may want to look into using the existing mountain bike trails to connect from Lincoln Hill Road to the Hollow Road.
- l. **Thank you Notes** – Oren suggested we continue sending out thank you notes to landowners who permit public recreation on their land. Lenore suggested that we should move the annual task to the winter when we are less busy with trail maintenance.

- m. **Mill Site Trail** – George will scout out possible routes in the spring and continue to work with Ann Thomas to move this project forward.
  - n. **Class IV Roads** – The VT Youth Conservation Corp did two days' worth of work on the Hayden Hill East/West connection of the Eagle's Trail this fall. We should continue to evaluate other Class IV roads that could be improved.
7. **Trail Along the LaPlatte River** – Scott Shumway was scheduled to attend tonight to discuss this idea. It was tabled until he could attend.
8. **Record Articles** – Peter has submitted his article for the February 28<sup>th</sup> issue. Lenore will ask Bret if he will do the one due in March. If not, Jane will do so.
9. **Other Business** – Chic suggested we get decals or bumper stickers with the HART logo for our cars. He will investigate costs etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Sheldon, Secretary

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3. "...to connect Leavensworth Road to the village. Three possibilities were discussed: 1) north side of the LaPlatte River using existing snowmobile trail and bridges, and an existing ford, 2) south side of LPR via a new bridge over the LPR to the water treatment facility, then across the former Clark property, and 3) south side of LPR via a new bridge over the LPR to the water treatment property, then Lagoon Road to Carse easement on south side of Charlotte Road to reach Leavensworth Road. Various issues were brought up including: cost and permitting involved in bridge construction and any construction in a floodplain, landowner permissions, and cooperation from the local snowmobile club. James mentioned that there were dredge piles along the west side of the LPR on his family's land, which might provide a higher and drier route for part of such a trail. Lenore is going to follow up with the local snowmobile club, the new owner of the Clark property, and VT Land Trust, which holds an easement on the former Clark land.

4. "... so we can incorporate them into future trail development work." [NOT the Official Map]..... across Route 116 to the Carse pedestrian easement leading southwest to the north side of Geprags Park. This brought up the need to connect from the west side of Geprags Park to O'Neil Road (to avoid Shelburne Falls Road) and the longstanding challenge to connect from Geprags Park to Ballard's Corner Road. Lenore will research the status of the Carse easement: the TC may be able to simply mow a path from Route 116 to the north side of Geprags Park. James' other comments about historic, current, and future running routes were recorded as annotations to a town-wide map.

7. ".... holding a public hearing to review the proposed Official Map before it goes to the Select Board and another public hearing prior to adoption. .... ~~We could then delete.... entrance to Farmall Drive.~~ [Please take out this sentence. Because we don't know what Bret is going to propose for development and what actually will get built, Alex and I agree that it's a good idea to keep the various trail options across the development and to add the one you describe. Alex will make a point of explaining this at the various public hearings.]. A second suggested change to the draft Official Map was to remove the future trail segment from the Blumen property on the west side of Silver Street on the side south of the LaPlatte River. The Blumens expressed concerns to Alex. This route had been included on the previous Official Map because it is a snowmobile route, but now that there are sidewalks along the north end of Silver Street, the west side of Route 116, into the Green Street neighborhood, and a trail easement from there to and along the LaPlatte River, there is no longer a need for a pedestrian trail on the Blumen property. The TC approved these two changes, which Lenore will pass on to Alex. Lenore encouraged TC members to attend the 3/27/19 hearing.

12. "....going back with a GPS unit so any proposed routes can be overlaid on property boundaries." [I think we actually want to stay ON VT F&W land, if possible, because we have permission (if grudging) to be there.]