

1/15/14

TOWN OF READFIELD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRAILS COMMITTEE

Short-term

1. Pursue the immediate opportunity to develop a pathway that parallels the access road to the middle and high schools. (7.2)

A new sidewalk (pathway) was constructed during summer/fall of 2012 along the shoulder of Millard Harrison Drive (the access road) that not only connects to the middle and high schools but also connects to a new sidewalk along Main Street (Route 17) from the juncture of Millard Harrison Drive to the Readfield Town Office.

2. Pursue the immediate opportunity to develop a pathway connecting the middle and high schools to the Church Road through the Readfield Fairgrounds property. (7-2)

A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant was sought and granted to RSU #38 for the cost of constructing a pathway from Millard Harrison Drive near the entrance driveway to the Superintendent's office that when constructed across Maranacook School property will connect to an already constructed trail in the Fairgrounds Complex built under the auspices of the Trails Committee. In addition, the RTP grant required the grantee, RSU #38, to contribute towards the cost of construction of the new pathway a matching amount of in-kind services or goods equal to 20% of the RTP grant. The Trails Committee offered to provide the 20% match required by the RTP grant to RSU #38 by constructing a trail from the parking lot on Church Road at the kiosk, somewhat near the boundary of the Readfield Corner Cemetery to near the junction of the Upper and Lower Fairgrounds Trails. The Trails Committee's in-kind contribution has greatly exceeded the 20% match requirement. This newly built pathway also provides access to a newly constructed ballfield in the Fairgrounds Complex.

Mid-Term

1. The Trails Committee in conjunction with the Conservation Commission should research remaining public rights that may yet exist in the discontinued and abandoned roads to determine their availability as potential trail corridors. (7.6)

This is a project that was carried out by Town Historian Evelyn Potter and Trails Committee Chair Milt Wright over several weeks in the winter of 2010. The research for this project went back to the early 1900s by reading through all of the Town Meeting records and Select Board meeting records. A fifty plus page document of these findings is now available. However, the Town retained a public easement over these discontinued and abandoned roads only if the road was discontinued or abandoned after September 3, 1965 unless the town at a Town Meeting waived the public easement at the time of the discontinuance or abandonment of the road.

2. Develop a walking tour of Factory Square. (Policy 7.6)

The Trails Committee sponsored a walking tour of Factory Square as part of a larger offering during Heritage Days in 2011. Marius Peladeau made a slide-show presentation about Factory Square at Asa Gile Hall and then attendees had the opportunity to walk to Factory Square led by Trails Committee member Milt Wright. Subsequently, in conjunction with History Walks that have been held at various venues in Readfield and led by historian Dale Marie Potter Clark of the Historical Society and co-led by Milt Wright of the Trails Committee, a history walk was conducted in fall of 2013 that went from the Town Office to Factory Square and on to the bridge on the Giles Road to the outlet of Torsey Pond and to the Cornforth House on Old Kents Hill Road.

Ongoing

1. Work in conjunction with the Conservation Commission to find opportunities to create new, permanent system(s) of trails throughout Readfield to accommodate diverse uses including snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling and skiing and to connect key conservation lands to other significant areas (such as schools) through landowner agreements and/or donated or purchased easements or lands.

The Trails Committee in cooperation with the Conservation Commission has built a new loop trail of .3 mile at the Fogg Farm Conservation Area. This new loop trail connected by a new pedestrian footbridge to an existing loop trail on the same property is named the David McPhedran Trail. This new loop trail also required a modest amount of bog bridging.

Additionally, the Trails Committee has held site visits with landowners of private properties about the feasibility of constructing trails on these private properties and securing access either by trail easement or trail agreement. These discussions continue.

2. In conjunction with the planning Board, work with developers to incorporate trail corridors as part of their subdivision plans. (7.2)

The Planning Board and the Trails Committee have memorialized in writing a letter regarding "Policy Regarding Trail Maintenance Including but not Limited to Subdivisions", dated June 22, 2010 by the Trails Committee and dated August 12, 2010 by the Planning Board. This letter indicated that the Planning Board would submit language at Article 6, section 3..J, Subsection 2 (Preliminary Plan procedures) to a Town Meeting for action by the voters.

Additionally, Trail Easements already have been incorporated into subdivisions at the Trefethen (Rodrigue Builders) Subdivision on P Ridge Road, Scribner Hill Farm Subdivision at the corner of Scribner Hill Road and Route 135 and Balsam Ridge Estates on Route 41 (Winthrop Road).

3. Maintain existing trails. (7.3)

The Trails Committee oversees the maintenance of all trails in the Fairgrounds Complex and the Fogg Farm Conservation Area all in agreement with the Conservation Commission. The Trails Committee assumed maintenance of the existing David McPhedran loop trail at the Fogg Farm Conservation Area at the time of opening of the new David McPhedran loop trail at the time of construction of the new footbridge that provided access to this new trail.

The Trails Committee assigns stewards to maintain each of the trails in its jurisdiction and requires the stewards to "monitor and coordinate maintenance of pathways by removing footpath obstructions such as blowdowns, in-growth, and other vegetation from the pathways, maintain paint blazes, clean and repair water bars, install signs and remove trash and illegal fire rings."

4. Identify and list prospective stormwater management projects on public and private roads that may be eligible for federal grants or cost-share funding. Pursue funding when available. (9.15)

Ongoing

1. Cooperate with the state and other communities to protect lakes and lands from invasive species. (Policy 7.1)
2. In conjunction with the Trails Committee and Planning Board, encourage cooperative arrangements with private landowners and developers to maintain controlled access to open land for summer and winter hiking, cross-country skiing, walking, snowmobiling and water recreation. Formalize these arrangements with easements or licenses whenever possible. (7.2)
3. Evaluate the benefits and costs of proposed offers of property to the town. (7.6)
4. Encourage the responsible use and stewardship by residents of all town recreational and conservation resources. (7.6)
5. Continue an active program of public education about natural resources, their importance to the community, the types of activities that can jeopardize them and what landowners can do to protect them. (9.1)
6. Encourage owners of unique natural areas, wildlife and critical habitats, agricultural lands and high productivity forestlands to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive manner and, where appropriate, to protect them with conservation easements and/or to participate in programs designed to retain undeveloped land. (9.5)

Responsibilities of the Trails Committee:

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Responsibilities of the Recreation Board:

Mid-term

1. Consider long-range public beach needs and explore the acquisition of additional shorefront area(s) for public use. (Policy 7.1)
2. Explore opportunities to provide recreational access to the Augusta Watershed District lands surrounding Carleton Pond. (7.4)

Ongoing

1. Continue to support and expand town recreation programs. Continue to encourage volunteer participation and improve coordination of volunteers. (Policy 7.5)

Responsibilities of the Economic Development Committee:

Short-term

1. Initiate a study to develop a proposal for the siting and needed infrastructure for a new, small business development area. (Policy 3.3)
2. Promote traditional summer campgrounds. (7.5)
3. Seek opportunities to promote local forestry and farming. (8.2)

Ongoing

1. Investigate avenues for greater small business assistance including financing, technical assistance and/or incubator facilities. (Policy 3.3)