

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

March 27, 2024

Present: Paul Bessette, Pete Davis, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Steve Hayes, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow,

Excused: Nancy Buker, Megan Lachapelle, Greg Leimbach, Henry Whittemore

Rob opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Jackie agreed to be the timekeeper.

After one change, Pete moved the minutes from Nov. 29, 2023, be approved. Jackie seconded. All approved.

Jackie reported no changes in treasurer's report, with a balance of \$6,650.81, the same as at our last meeting.

Rob asked Steve if he found out any information for the Fairgrounds Trail Founders sign. We discussed possible sources for information, such as members who might remember the early days of Trails.

Rob reported that he met with the facilities committee at the Maranacook Community School, which was positive about the idea of trails as long as we stay off the cross-country ski trails in the winter. So we can either reroute around those routes or just have a three-season trail. Since Rob will be gone in April and nothing can be done now anyway with the recent snowfall, he will plan a walk for May.

Rob reported that the Fairgrounds Committee has finished its work and now it's up to the voters. The Planning Board is working on permits and a new committee is working on funding options.

Greg D. reported that the Conservation Committee is still considering the possibility of going into business with a company from Livermore to raise chaga mushrooms on birch trees in the town forests to make money. The committee is also working on the open space plan and on dealing with invasives.

Rob reported that the Esker Trail is very wet and has something that almost looks like a vernal pool. He suggested that putting down more wood chips might be in order.

Greg D. said there is nothing new about the Mill Stream, but he is looking at going out to do clean up with the Harrises once the weather cooperates. He will send out a notice in case anyone wants to help.

Paul said he and Jemelie and Jackie are continuing to maintain the Fogg Farm Trail. He said the rotten bridges have been removed and the remaining bridge is in good shape.

Paul met with Don and is learning about map GIS. It is a very complicated program, so he is taking tutorials, but we also discussed possible other techniques to accomplish our goal, such as using Google maps or finding an outside expert to help.

Holly brought in a very rough draft of text as an example for use on the back of the overall map. The idea is to offer more details on each trail to help people decide what to explore. We could include a brief description of

each trail, any highlights, the difficulty and the length of the trail. Then the text for each individual map could be extracted from the master document and used for the QR codes to each route. Rob said Angelica in the town office can handle the QR codes for us. Holly will send out her draft for committee members to provide additional information. She will coordinate collecting the information and compiling a final document for the committee to approve.

Rob reviewed the culvert installation plan for the Morrill Road trail that Greg L. suggested and provided details on proceeding. Everyone agreed that we are willing to do the necessary work once the culvert is installed and fill is dumped on top of it.

He also discussed the possibility of putting a culvert on the Esker Trail. He needs approval from Eric to proceed, so Rob wants to set a date for doing that once he returns in May. He says that with that and with one other improvement the Esker Trail could be an easy walk for people who might not want to tackle a more difficult trail.

Rob says that he needs to mobilize a work crew to tackle several large trees down on the Carlton Pond trail. It will require a couple of chainsaw crews to cut a path through the downed trees. He said Brian has given permission and expressed no interest in trying to sell the wood.

Rob also reported on his efforts to put the Carlton Trail on Maine Trail Finders, which Megan had suggested. The first time he tried the group was out of funds, but they are back in business and he has started the paperwork to get that done.

We have two workdays scheduled for the Fairgrounds: Kents Hill students will be working on Tuesday, April 23 (rain date Thursday), and the Maranacook students will be available on May 3. We discussed possible work plans, although we may not be able to decide until the snow melts and we can walk the trails.

After the December cleanup, Henry suggested that some committee members might benefit from a chainsaw safety course. We discussed options and Greg D. agreed to look into it.

For action items, Pau and Holly will follow up on the map project.

Walks will be scheduled for the Fairgrounds trails to make plans for the student work days.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow