

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

November 29, 2023

Present: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Pete Davis, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Steve Hayes, Megan Lachapelle, Greg Leimbach

Rob opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. with the introduction of new member Pete Davis.

Jackie agreed to be the timekeeper.

Greg D. moved the minutes from Sept. 27 be approved. Jackie seconded. All approved with Pete abstaining.

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

Rob reported that the Maranacook Community School woods trail is going to be a long-term project. The trail needs quite a bit of work with the bridges and wet areas, and we cannot spend town money on it. Rob is planning to walk the potential trail and workarounds with Steve DeAngelis. Paul suggested that we could accomplish much of what we want to do in baby steps, making a loop that would avoid any bridge work. Rob and Paul are going to coordinate by email a plan to walk the area so everyone is on the same page with the trails being discussed.

Greg D. reported that the Conservation Committee would like to invite Trails members to join them in honoring Milt Wright. The CC is asking the Select Board to approve the naming of the trail spur at the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve after Milt. Henry moved to endorse the CC's efforts to rename the trail. Pete seconded. Unanimously approved.

Rob reported that the Fairgrounds Committee has approved including a basketball court in the plan. It will be near the baseball field and will require some tree clearing and rerouting of the trail in that area, but Rob said there is plenty of room. The plan also includes installing water and electricity, but there are no current plans for a concession stand.

Greg L. has talked to Eric about installing the culvert for the Morrill Road trail, and the plan is to install that next spring.

The Fairgrounds Trails are in good shape. Thanks to Paul and Greg D. for blowing the leaves.

Rob discussed the possibility of adding a culvert to the Esker Trail to make it more navigable for people with less mobility. Paul suggested changing the trail entrance to the old transfer station.

Rob said there are a couple of problems with that suggestion. One is that the sand and salt trucks use that entrance; another is sight visibility.

Henry asked about a new bridge on the Mill Stream, possibly erected by Greg L., who is absent tonight. Consensus is that the death of Bob Bittar will not affect the trail agreement.

Paul reported that a lot of work has been done on the Fogg Trail, but that it could use some marking.

Rob reported that the Carlson Pond QR code has been fixed.

Paul offered to work on the maps with some help from Don getting started. Holly said she would put him in touch with Don. Holly suggested that since we've eliminated the inserts on the main overall map that perhaps we should have descriptions and trail information on the back. She offered to work on writing something up.

Rob reviewed his proposed budget of about \$1,800 for next year, which is about half of what we asked for last year. Henry said he thought the budget request is reasonable. Nancy asked about hiring contractors to flatten and widen some of the trails at the Fairgrounds to make them easier to walk. Rob said he'd been holding off because of the project at the Fairgrounds. If it is approved, redoing some of the trails will be part of that and paid for by those funds and grants. But there are some trails away from the project that we could work on. It was agreed that some heavy equipment (tractor with box square/scrapper) will be needed. We will look into doing that next spring.

Rob reported on two things that came from the Committee Chairs meeting. One is a plan to revise open space plan, in which they want Trails to participate. The other is that they are formally assigning staff to serve each committee. Ben Rodriguez will serve Trails.

For action items, Paul will follow up with Don and Holly on the map project.

Walks will be scheduled for the Fairgrounds and Maranacook Community School trails to make plans

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow