

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

April 24, 2024

Present: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Steve Hayes, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Pete Davis, Megan Lachapelle, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale

Greg D. opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Jackie agreed to be the timekeeper.

Jackie moved the minutes from March 27, 2024, be approved. Paul seconded. All approved with two abstentions.

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

Greg reported on the updating of the town's open space plan, which hasn't been done since the original in 2006. A committee is being established to address the issue. Eric has asked Trails and several other committees and the Kennebec Land Trust to send a representative. Henry said he might potentially be interested.

Holly passed out another draft of the trails descriptions, which she cobbled together with input from several different members. Henry has agreed to copy edit the document, and we discussed what we want from the final document. Steve noted that the word accessible has a legal meaning and we should probably not use it to describe the Fairgrounds trail.

After Henry has completed his work, the new version will be emailed out for comment, with the hope to approve the final document at our May meeting. Once that copy has been approved, it will appear on the back of the new overall map and placed in the kiosks and other distribution points. The same copy will be used to create QR code access for the individual maps on the town website.

On Friday, May 3, about 20 student volunteers from grades 6 through 12 will be working with Trails members at the Fairgrounds. Steve reviewed the work plans which he and Greg D. and Jackie developed after meeting with trails expert Tyler Keniston from KLT and walking the Fairgrounds. There is quite a bit of work to be done, some of it quite heavy, to repair the drainage issues.

Henry expressed some concerns about the difficulty of children working on the projects outlined and the need for professional expertise and heavy equipment. He said we could end up messing up the cannoli project. Steve asked how the committee felt about an open top drain, aka a box culvert. We discussed different options and how we might execute them.

We discussed how difficult it would be to do by hand and whether we should get an excavator or other heavy equipment from the town or another source. It could be dangerous to have students digging and doing the other heavy work, and we certainly don't want them in the vicinity if we do hire an excavator. Greg D. is going to look into the possibility of hiring someone with a small excavator.

We also discussed the advantage of having the stone preplaced for the work. Paul said he could tackle that if he knew where to put the stone. Steve said he will place blue tarps in the appropriate places.

Finally, Greg D. went over the plans for the day, such as tools and refreshments needed, and who will be there. We will meet in the parking lot at 8:30.

Greg D. asked if we want to do something for National Trails Day on June 1. Steve suggested we might do something with the new maps, but they might not be ready by then. The consensus was no.

Greg D. noted that some members need to renew their Trails membership.

Paul discussed the need to fix a bridge on the Fogg Trail. Rotted planks need to be replaced. He went over how he would do it and what expense would be involved. Everyone agreed that his plan sounded reasonable and a couple of suggestions were offered.

Paul moved to spend up to \$100 on fixing the Fogg Trail bridge. Henry seconded. All approved. Nancy asked if that would be enough. Rather than run short, Henry amended the motion to up to \$150, Paul seconded. All approved.

Greg D. said he will follow up on getting the Mill Stream Trail cleaned up.

We discussed whether we want to do something for Heritage Days and what that might be. Jackie suggested we might want to have a table at the beach with maps and other Trails information.

At the May 22 meeting we will review the final map descriptions document, Nancy will present her spring kiosk report, Steve will report on the results of our May 3 efforts, and Paul will update us on the Fogg trail bridge repairs

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow