

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

June 28, 2023

Present: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Megan Lachapelle, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow

Excused: Steve Hayes, Greg Leimbach, Henry Whittemore

Rob opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m. in person and on Zoom.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper.

Jackie moved the minutes from April 26, 2023, be approved. Nancy seconded. All approved with one abstention.

Jackie reported that our current balance is \$4,720.81 after a recent purchase of bluestone. We will be getting our annual allotment from the town soon as well. Committee discussed how we might spend some of those funds. Now that the Fairgrounds project is going to proceed, Rob said we might not have to spend as much of our money on trails in that area. Nancy noted that some of the Fairgrounds trails are difficult for people to walk side by side because they are so rounded.

Nancy went over her annual spring kiosk report, which is attached to the minutes. We agreed to leave the bird nests this year, but to put up barriers after the breeding season is over.

Rob reported that the Maranacook trails are in quite good shape. Our biggest problem is that we can't spend any town money on school property. Discussed how to connect our trails to the school trails in a way that won't cross private property, as some of those property owners don't want hikers encouraged to cross land currently used for snow sports. Rob said he'll do some mapping to clarify possible routes.

Holly reported that now that the Comprehensive Plan has passed that Trails has no specific responsibility other than to continue its mission.

Megan noted that the Carlton Pond Trail is not listed on Maine Trail Finder or other online searches. Megan also said the QR code didn't work for her. Rob said he will look into both issues.

Paul said he is planning to weed whack the Fogg Trail tomorrow. He said the bridge needs work and there are some branches down.

For our annual election of officers, Holly moved that the same slate of officers serve into the next year. Paul seconded. All approved.

The Kennebec Land Trust has asked to post notices on our trail kiosks for its 35th anniversary walking challenge, where local businesses are donating to KLT for each mile walked by residents. The goal is to raise \$10,000.

Holly reported that Don created an individual for the Fogg Trail, but she felt it had too many distracting features/highlights, so it needs more work. Paul asked for a map of Esker so he can add it to a kiosk he plans to build. Holly said she will try, but it's difficult to get Don to pay attention to anything but golf in the summer.

Nancy asked about the Girl Scouts and their plans to build exercise stations on the trails, but Rob said that the company that makes the equipment has gone out of business.

Action items include continuing to explore trail options on Maranacook school grounds, get our trails listed on Maine trail finder, follow up with Bruce Hunter on the kiosks that need attention and with the town on the culverts for Esker and Morrill Road trails, and look into a possible work party for Mill Stream if we can deal with the poison ivy. Paul said he could help with the bird blocking on the kiosks.

Megan said that building a fairy garden at one of the trails is still something she'd like to do, if time allows.

Holly moved we adjourn; Jackie seconded. Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow