

# **Readfield Trails Committee Minutes**

## **August 25, 2021**

**Present:** Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Steve Hayes, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

**Excused:** Paul Bessette, Greg Durgin

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper.

Jackie passed out the treasurer's report. There is some confusion over how those numbers will be obtained and presented. Rob said he and Jackie will meet with Teresa to work out the details and we will discuss them at the next meeting.

June minutes were reviewed via email last month, so there were no further questions. Steve moved they be approved, and Nancy seconded. Minutes approved with two abstentions from members absent at the June meeting.

We decided to discuss stewardship of the trails at each meeting, so we can keep track of what is being done on each trail.

Jackie said Chip Stephens, the code enforcement officer, asked her about the Torsey Shores Thundercastle trail. After some discussion we ascertained that he is talking about the Kennebec Land Trust plans to expand the Tyler easement. That is not our responsibility, but Rob mentioned that the KLT is trying to raise funds to purchase that easement and work on the trail if anyone wants to donate.

Steve said the bench at the Fairgrounds was moved again to a spot near the trail. He also said the school is planning on clearing some trees that are down. The trails are on the school property but are sometimes used by trail walkers.

There was some uncertainty as to who is stewarding the Fairgrounds Trail. After the meeting Greg D. notified the committee via email that he has been the unofficial steward of the Fairgrounds Trail since Gary and Ann Keilty resigned. Steve volunteered to be a steward of that trail with him.

Rob said the Esker Trail is in good shape. He is the steward for that trail.

Rob said the Fogg Farm trail is in good shape. Paul and Jemelie volunteered via email to replace Bob and Jeanne as stewards. Jackie said she would also help them.

Greg L. agreed to be the steward for the Morrell Road trail.

Rob said he emailed with Brian at GAUD about the Carleton Pond trail. Brian is still trying to get someone in there to create an interior gate so that the parking is open and we can follow up with working on the trail, which has been flagged but no further progress has been made. Rob said he will be the steward for it once it's established.

Rob said that he has received some very positive feedback about the new Morrill Road trail, which enables hikers to avoid walking on Route 17. Instead they will just have to cross it. Over the summer Greg D., Henry, Jackie and Rob cleared the trail of downed trees, so it is passable, but the culvert and staging pad have yet to be installed by the town.

Nancy presented an update of her kiosk report (attached) and went over some concerns. She noted that many kiosks still need to be painted. Paul has volunteered to do that, and Greg D. said he would get the paint. Nancy also lamented the state of the kiosk of the Maranacook Community School, to which we don't have access, and the condition of the Mill Stream trail. Nancy noted that it really needs attention, lots of weeds and mold potential under the historic signs.

Greg L. said the Mill Stream trail maintenance issues will be addressed to the Conservation Commission.

We discussed the chestnut tree above the Mill Stream. Henry volunteered to look into seeing about a sign noting the tree's presence.

We discussed the Clark Memorial site and whether we should send a thank-you note to the person who is mowing/maintaining the grounds. Nancy plans to contact the Town Office to obtain the name of the landowner who resides next door and create a thank-you card to be signed at the September meeting.

Nancy brought up the potential for access to the Fairgrounds in case of an emergency such as a person having a heart attack. Steve said he was a Readfield EMT for many years, and that it is a nonissue; emergency personnel could easily access that area.

Henry reviewed the work he has done so far on updating the strategic plan, which he began editing for writing style as well as content. He presented some possibilities for topics that might be added. We also need to update it to reflect tasks that have been completed or are ongoing. He suggested that we might address a block of time in a future meeting. We agreed to devote much of a future meeting to going over it.

In a discussion on fall maintenance, Steve said he would like to be part of cleaning up the Maranacook School trails, especially west of Tingley Road. Henry brought up the ownership of those trails and whether some of it is private property. Before we can undertake any work plans, we will need to ascertain boundaries. Henry suggested an app call OnXHunt. Steve said the state GIS system is only as good as the town's underlying data and Readfield's tax maps aren't entirely accurate. He will follow up with some people at the school.

Nancy asked about a plan to build a softball field. Greg L., who is on the Conservation Commission, said the RCC reviewed a potential ball field project at the fairgrounds, and indicated that alternative sites be investigated before considering the fairgrounds property per the fairgrounds management plan.

Rob reviewed action items.

Rob is going to work with Jackie on the treasurer's report and check with Bob and Jeanne and Greg D. about their potential stewardships.

Steve is going to follow up on the trails at the school and find out what trails we might maintain. He is going to see about getting the key to the kiosk at the school. Steve suggested we would do a better job at maintaining it than the school does.

Henry will continue his work with the strategic plan and see about a sign for the chestnut tree.

Greg L. will follow up with the RCC re the Mill Stream trail.

Paul and Greg D. will work on painting the kiosks.

Nancy will prepare a thank-you card for RTC signing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow