

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

March 23, 2022 - Approved

Present: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Steve Hayes, Megan Lachapelle, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore, Girl Scout Megan Parker, Leader Ellen Parker

Excused:

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. at both the town office and on Zoom.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper.

The meeting began with new member Megan introducing herself to the committee and vice versa.

There was only one change to the January 26 minutes — an incorrect date. Henry moved the January minutes as amended be approved, and Greg seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Girl Scout Megan and her mother Ellen Parker presented their idea for installing a 10-unit Fit-Trail on the Fairgrounds Trail. Their troop has raised quite a bit of money and would like to do something for the community. We talked about the concept and next steps, which would include talking to the Conservation Commission and Town Manager Eric Dyer. Everyone on the committee thought it was a good idea. The only caveat was perhaps waiting until the plans for the new ball field and other amenities at the Fairgrounds have been finalized.

Rob passed out the landscape architect's plan for the Fairgrounds proposal, and we talked about it. Greg mentioned that some of the Conservation Commission walked the area and noted that one section was particularly wet and quite a bit of fill might be needed.

Most of the committee is opposed to plans to move the Ken Clark memorial tree and bench. They also feel that a concession stand is unnecessary and will get little use, plus there are no bathroom facilities or running water on site. Feelings about the basketball/pickle court were mixed, with the primary objection being its location, as that area is very wet. There were no objections to the location of the new softball field.

Jackie presented the treasurer's report, which Henry recently redesigned. It includes three sheets, one for Ken Clark funds and another for general funds, with a third that includes all Trails funds.

Paul moved we approve the treasurer's report; Nancy seconded. All approved.

We discussed needed maintenance at the Fairgrounds and other trails. There was some flooding over the winter due to freezing and some of the culverts were blocked or moved by ice. In some places adding a culvert or putting down some rock might be a big help. We don't have a budget for some of the work needed, but

Greg said there may be some money in another budget. Rob is going to look into the funding. Steve and Megan volunteered to help with the project.

Steve continues his efforts to add the Maranacook school trails to our network. He has spoken to the owner of adjoining land about adding those trails to our maps. Currently those trails are used by the school and for snowmobiling, but there is no trail agreement. Rob suggested we need to walk them to get an idea of what we might do. Steve is going to send the committee a map showing property lines.

Rob said there is not much progress on the kiosk for the Carlton Pond Trail, as we continue to wait for Brian of the Greater Augusta Utility District to set posts for the kiosk. It was suggested we get out and walk the trails for blow downs or wet spots.

Greg D. said there is some cleanup work needed on the library and Mill Stream trails that he'll take care of before bug season.

Paul said he and Jemelie will walk the Fogg Road Trail.

Trails' request for funds of about \$2600, for which Jackie and Greg advocated in a Budget Committee meeting in February, will be included in the hearing for the entire budget tomorrow night (March 24). Everyone is welcome to attend.

On the strategic plan Rob noted one change he would like to see before Henry posts it. Greg D. moved we approve the plan; Paul seconded. All approved.

Rob asked if members are comfortable with providing their own copies of documents for meetings rather than printing everything in advance and possibly wasting paper. Everyone agreed.

Nancy talked about American Trails grant opportunities for maintenance, creation and stewardship of trails. Jerry Bley of the RCC had expressed some interest in doing so. Rob, Henry and Greg D. said they'd follow up.

She also suggested we might look into water trails, and we discussed possibilities.

The next meeting date will be April 27.

Henry moved we adjourn; Jackie seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow