

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

September 28, 2022

Present: Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, SB Chair Dennis Price

Excused: Paul Bessette, Steve Hayes, Megan Lachapelle, Henry Whittemore

Rob opened meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper

Greg D. moved that minutes from July be approved; Holly seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Jackie presented the treasurer's report. She noted that she'd made a mistake in the handout, but that our balance is currently \$5,730.79 after additional funds were deposited. She said she would email a corrected report to the committee.

Selectboard Chair Dennis Price joined the committee to discuss a few issues. Rob said that littering and dog waste continue to be a problem at the Fairgrounds. Rob spoke to the town manager about it and a receptacle was placed at the parking lot. Rob asked Dennis about how that is working out, noting that both trash and recyclables end up in the can. He suggested that perhaps we could put out a separate container for recyclables. Dennis said that is an option and reported that so far the receptacle seems to be resulting in less littering.

Rob asked Dennis if he was aware of the Morrill Road trail and the need for a culvert and landing to cross Route 17, a project that has remained in limbo for a while. Dennis said he would look into it.

Another possible project is the need for a culvert at at least one or possibly two road crossings at the Esker Trail, which could be done with other work at the Transfer Station.

Dennis asked if it would be possible to post a QR code at the trailheads to bring up the map. It would be a good way to promote the trails. He said he would do create the codes himself. The maps are on the Readfield website, and Dennis can get them from it.

Dennis also suggested using the trails for a 5K event at Heritage Days. The committee hasn't sponsored an event in the past few years. Greg L. noted that he has investigated the international group Volks Vanderham and a possible fall event.

Rob told Dennis about a culvert by the cemetery that needs to be reset. Greg L. said he might be able to do it with his tractor and one other person. Rob said it's something he doesn't want to do with the Maranacook students next month for safety reasons.

Dennis, who works for the town of Monmouth, said that Monmouth is looking to create a trail behind Cumston Hall, and he would like to connect some of the people there with our committee to provide some information in getting started. This trail would allow the library to have a Story Walk.

Rob said he talked to Brian about the trail at Carleton Pond, and he is okay with us proceeding using a temporary kiosk and leaving the gate unlocked, but closed, to allow people to park. We can't spend any funds on this project, unless it's something that can be removed later. Rob said he wants a simple kiosk. The regular ones are too expensive.

We discussed the work day with the Maranacook students at the Fairgrounds. Greg D. said United Way has provided the kids with shovels, rakes and gloves. We have five wheelbarrows, and Greg L. is going to move some of the blue rock with his tractor. Greg D. asked if we are going to put down geotech. Greg L. noted that it isn't really effective to keep down grass and weeds, so we decided against it.

Greg D. said that the town has been maintaining the Mill Stream area, but the leaves will need to be raked eventually.

Jackie said that the Fogg trail is fine.

Greg D. said that Bob Harris is turning a piece of bark with a blaze on it that fell off a tree into a plaque to be presented to Milt to thank him for all his work blazing. Greg said that they are planning a presentation and will also include the Conservation Commission.

Greg D. said that Dana Therrien, who has previously helped fund Trails, is interested in building a trail at the Fairgrounds. He will come to a meeting and make a presentation.

At our October 26 meeting we will look into having the presentation by Dana and honoring Milt.

Greg L. said he hasn't done much about the Morrill Road trail, but it is getting used despite the lack of the culvert and the landing spot on Route 17. Nancy expressed concern about using the

snowmobile trails on the former Saunders property. We cannot promote their use officially or on the map.

Nancy said she doesn't think the trash and the dog waste at the Fairgrounds parking lot is our responsibility, that it is up to the town to maintain the parking lot.

Greg D. moved we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow