

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

April 26, 2023

Present: Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Steve Hayes, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow

Excused: Paul Bessette, Megan Lachapelle, Henry Whittemore

Rob opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. in person and on Zoom.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper.

Nancy moved the minutes from Nov. 30, 2022, be approved. Greg D. seconded. All approved.

Jackie reported that our current balance is \$5,730.79. It does not include the bluestone that Rob just ordered for tomorrow's work with Kents Hill students. The balance will go up if our 2023 budget request is approved at the June vote.

Rob said that he has not heard from the Therriens re their proposal for a trail behind the school, which was made at our November meeting.

Rob said he plans to talk to the Maranacook superintendent about the possibility of trails on school property. Nancy noted that there are a number of private properties in that area where the owners allow snowmobiling but are not interested in being included on our maps.

Greg D. reported on the progress with the Comp Plan Committee. A final draft was posted on the website, and residents are encouraged to read it. On May 17 there will be a public hearing to explain the process and to allow residents to ask questions, but no changes will be accepted.

He also reported that the Conservation Commission met with a couple who want to grow chaga mushrooms on birch trees in the town forest. They take several years to grow with an initial cost of \$8,000 with the idea that a decade down the road the town would make money off it. The CC has put the idea before the Select Board. Greg D. said the CC has also been working on the plans for the Fairgrounds project.

Stewards reported on their trails. Steve said that the Fairgrounds trails are in good shape with just a bit of geotech showing through in places. He said there are a couple places that will need bluestone but just a wheelbarrow or two. He said the trail that circles the bleacher section is just about all grassed in. Rob said he will try to take a look at it soon.

Rob said the Morrill Road trail is in good shape. Jackie reported that a bridge on the Fogg trail is down to one board. Funds will be required to fix that. Greg D. said that he checked on the Mill Stream path over the winter and it looked fine.

For the work day tomorrow, the bluestone is in place to make the Community trail behind the library as universally accessible as possible. The stone was dropped off by the Meeting House today, and Ralph Eno was kind enough to use his tractor to move it into place.

Holly led a discussion about the Trails maps and the plan to create maps for individual trails that can be accessed via a QR code. Her husband Don does the work. The committee is happy with the overall look of the trail map after the addition of Carlton Pond and Morrill Road, but Holly will send out a PDF for everyone to review more closely. Don is also going to create several individual maps. We decided to start with the Fogg trail as a test and reviewed the features we would like to see on it. The maps will be dropped into a Word document so members can add text below the maps, then save them as a PDF to post on the kiosks and the town website.

Nancy asked if the committee knows of any plans to building a trail on the old discontinued road that went from the end of P Ridge to the Town Farm on Elvin property. Greg L. and Rob noted that if any trail was built to the Town Farm it would be on the Draper property. No one knows of any plan to go anywhere near the Elvin property. It was noted that any potential trail would require landowner permissions. Greg D. said the Conservation Commission is working with New England Forestry about access to the Draper property.

Rob said Dennis Price asked him if Trails had any interest in sponsoring an activity for Heritage Days. Greg D. said he is going to be working for the food pantry, and Greg L. said he plans to attend the planning meeting for Heritage Days, but no one else expressed interest.

Rob expressed his continuing concern about the chiropractor posting ads on the Trails Facebook page. Steve said he thinks it is Meta-authorized advertising using Constant Contact. Nancy moved that we authorize Rob to approach the chiropractor posting ads on our town Trails page to stop doing so. Jackie seconded. Everyone voted in favor.

Rob encouraged those up for reappointment to the Trails Committee to sign up.

Rob asked Steve if he wanted to continue on the Fairgrounds planning committee. He does not. Jackie agreed to be the second person. Rob is already representing Trails. Greg D. said the committee has come a long way toward agreements. Current scope includes an additional ball field and portable toilets, but no basketball court or concession stand.

We discussed our views on the Fairgrounds project. Rob, who is serving on the working group for the Fairgrounds project, submitted the following list of suggestions to that group.

- Need trail kiosks at both trail entrances.
- The trail sign/kiosk should be where the trail leaves the parking lot so it is visible from the parking lot.
- The proposed trees in the middle of the parking lot will create maintenance issues (keeping it alive until established, leave cleanup, space, etc.).
- Need to make sure there is truck access to the porta-potties.
- There should be bus access to the parking lot.
- There should be a one-way entrance and a one-way exit at opposite ends of the parking lot to facilitate access for buses and for large events.
- Get rid of the hump in the road.
- Sidewalk should be on the east side of the road for safety reasons especially if hump is not removed.

Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow