

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

September 27, 2023

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

Excused: Megan Lachapelle, Henry Whittemore

Greg D. opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. in person and on Zoom.

Paul agreed to be timekeeper.

After one change, Jackie moved the minutes from June 28, 2023, be approved. Greg L. seconded. All approved.

Jackie reported that our current balance is \$6,650.81. This includes our annual allocation for 2023 of \$1,920 and our carryover funds of \$4,720.81. The Select Board has changed how these funds are handled. This year's allocation will be referred to as General Operating funds, while our previous balance is called Special Revenue.

We now need to let the town know when we spend money which fund we want to use. As we understand it, if we fail to use all of our General Operating funds they will revert back to the town's coffers, while our Special Revenue will remain with Trails.

The town is actually keeping the funds separate, so Jackie will track them separately as well.

Steve moved that from this point forward the treasurer or other authorized Trails representative should have the town take any Trails expenditure out of the General Operating fund unless those funds are lacking or it is contrarily indicated for a designated project. Holly seconded. All approved.

Nancy reviewed her fall kiosk report, which is attached to the minutes.

The committee continued its discussion of a possible trail on Maranacook Community School property to connect to the Fairgrounds trail. There are several issues, including bridges in disrepair and wet areas, including as much as 120 feet of bog bridging needed, as well as snow and ski trails that cross private land. We cannot use town funds for materials. Perhaps the school will come up with some funds or could tie work on the trails into the curriculum. A Boy Scout project is another option. Rob will set up a meeting with Steve DeAngelis to follow up.

Greg D. reported that the Conservation Commission has had its vernal pool map accepted by the state and that they are working on invasive plant control at the town farm.

Paul said that help will be needed to deal with defunct bridges on the Fogg trail. They are too heavy for him to move by himself, so perhaps when we have school help they can be removed.

Greg D. said that the Fairgrounds trails are in good shape.

Rob reported that on some wet parts of the Carlton Trail hikers are going to the sides of the path and widening the trail. He also noted that the QR code doesn't work.

Greg L. said that he would like to go ahead and put the culvert in at the Morrill Road trail. State rules call for flaggers and other safety measures, but Greg said there is no need to be in the road, that all we need to do is set the culvert in and cover it with rocks/gravel.

Holly said that she will get Don to complete the maps once the golf season is over, which should be soon.

The committee discussed doing something to honor Milt Wright, a founding member of Trails who died recently. A sign with his photo and an explanation of his pioneering of the yellow blazes was suggested. Greg L. noted that with many of the founding Trails members of advanced age we could end up with a graveyard at the Fairgrounds. So we discussed a commemoration of all the founding members of Trails. Steve agreed to compile a history of the Fairgrounds and then we'll look at creating a plaque.

We returned to the subject of kiosks and whether there should be one at the head of the Esker Trail.

For action items, Paul will tend to removing the outdated fundraiser sign from the Fogg Farm Reserve.

Greg D. and Bob Harris will either tend to the Old Mill Stream area or see if the town can help deal with the poison ivy and other overgrowth.

Greg D. will let the Conservation Commission know that the Torsey Shores trail kiosk is in poor condition.

Greg L. will follow up on the Morrill Road culvert.

Steve will compile a history of the Fairgrounds.

Rob will follow up on Maranacook trails possibilities.

At 7:55 Paul moved we adjourn. Holly seconded.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow