

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

May 25, 2022 - Approved

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

Excused: Paul Bessette, Henry Whittemore

Rob opened meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Greg L. agreed to be timekeeper

Nancy moved the minutes be approved; Greg D. seconded; approved unanimously.

Jackie presented the treasurer's report. We had expenses for gravel, sand, etc., for trail work. In April we received \$50 and \$1,000 donations leaving us with a total of \$842.54.

Rob updated the committee on the Fairgrounds project. They've asked for someone from Trails to attend a meeting on June 2. Several people plan on going. As Trails has not made a statement re the project, Greg D. noted that speakers should be sure to note that whatever they say is their own opinion and not that of the committee. The topic was discussed at length, but again, no formal Trails opinion was established.

Rob asked for suggestions re Fairgrounds trails projects. There is still some blue stone left in case anyone wants to initiate a project. Greg D. noted that there are always bare spots. There is a culvert that was dislodged by frost and ice. Greg L. said that once it's drier he can take his tractor over to deal with it.

Steve said he spoke to owners of the property that abuts the Maranacook School and has several trails. The owners said that while they are happy with current usage, both summer and winter, they have no interest in formally establishing a Trails agreement.

Rob said that there is still no word from Brian regarding the posts needed for a kiosk. Committee members discussed building the kiosk and installing it ourselves.

Stewards reported on their trails.

Rob said Esker Trail looks good.

Greg D. noted that he has been honoring No Mow May but will see to that at the Fairgrounds soon. He said we could use some wood chips at Mill Stream, and we discussed how to get some, perhaps from the Transfer Station.

Greg L. said the Morrill Road Trail is getting lots of use, especially bikers. He said he might take a weed whacker over there later.

Jackie said she walked the Fogg Farm recently, and it's in good shape.

Nancy presented her report on the state of the kiosks. She complimented the painting job from last summer and said the paint is holding up quite well. Her report will be attached to this month's minutes. Nancy found \$2 in one of the kiosks that goes to Kennebec Land Trust and will send it to them.

Nancy moved that the committee pay for some cork board to put in the back of the kiosk at Maranacook School so items can be attached properly instead of duct taped. Greg L. seconded. All agreed.

Nancy passed out a some information from National Water Trails, which is trying to connect waterways nationwide. We discussed adding some landing options to our map so that people can get to trails from the water. We agreed to look at including these options with our next map update.

Rob asked if anyone has any projects in mind for Heritage Days. Greg L. said that it might be too hot for runs/walks in August, but he is still working on some event along those lines, possibly for fall.

Megan suggested Fairy Houses as a project to further engage children. The committee discussed possible locations. The committee agreed it was a good idea but noted she needs to get permission from the Conservation Commission, which oversees the Fairgrounds.

National Trails Day is June 4, which is a bit close for us to plan anything. Previous events have not reaped a lot of response, so we decided to pass. Heritage Days might be a better option.

We talked about litter on the trails and the need to encourage courtesy and respect for others and the wilderness. Steve said he regularly picks up trash at the north end of the Fairgrounds, and Greg D. said he often picks up litter at the Fairgrounds as well. We discussed options for discouraging littering and loitering. Greg L. suggested asking local law enforcement officials to regularly patrol. Steve suggested a sign noting game camera is in use might discourage parking there after hours.

Greg D. moved we adjourn, Steve seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow