

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

July 28, 2020

Present: Greg Durgin, Bob Harris, Jeanne Harris, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Holly agreed to be timekeeper.

The minutes, with changes suggested by Nancy already included, were distributed. Henry moved they be approved; Rob seconded. Approved unanimously

Jeanne reported that we have \$843.02 in our account, plus the \$2,830 donated in honor of Ken Clark, which is in a separate account. Since our last meeting we have spent \$36.54 on printing maps and \$445.99 on geotech.

The application to DOT for the culvert installation to allow the Morrill Road connector trail to cross Route 17 was submitted two months ago, but we have not heard back from DOT. Rob said that Eric will look into it. Rob, Greg D. Bob and Eric went and looked at where the trail might be routed so as to avoid too straight a shot from the trail into the road.

Rob said that Brian Tarbuck reported our proposed Carlton Pond trail location to the Greater Augusta Utility District board at their June meeting. As of today's RTC meeting he had not heard of what action, if any, the board wants to take. He doesn't expect that we will be doing any more work at the property until late summer or fall. Henry said that once the heat has passed he'd be willing to help with the new trail, chainsawing and clearing.

Via email, the committee decided that we needed to go with a granite bench under Ken's tree to avoid having a lighter bench stolen. We would also like to have it engraved. Greg D. said that he has looked into options. Forgotten Stoneworks is closing, but he got some names of other businesses that sell them. However, Jeanne said that Lori Clark would like some more time to make a decision.

Holly has been sharing tree-watering duties with Tim Sniffen, and the tree is doing well despite the hot, dry summer.

Greg D. asked for an update from the subcommittee re spending money on non-town-owned property. The subcommittee is looking into the Select Board's policy on whether or not Trails can spend town money on non-town owned properties. The subcommittee members, Rob, Greg L. and Paul, will work on that issue for our next meeting.

Greg D. reported that as Heritage Days will not be held (other than some fireworks), we will not be doing any trail events this summer.

Greg D. reported that there is no money for the Church Street sidewalk at this time. He did not have anything to report on the parking spaces downtown either. Some members raised the question of why Trails was discussing parking spaces and sidewalks. Greg D. has been updating us for about a year on the Church Street

sidewalk, which is near some of our trails, but members agreed that we would like to limit our meetings to Trails issues and keep meetings as brief and on point as possible.

Rob reported that Paul fixed the broken Esker Trail sign. We discussed a possible kiosk but decided we didn't need one. Perhaps Paul, who is very good at building things, might make a box for maps.

Due to the COVID risk, there is no porta potty at the Fairgrounds Trail this year.

Greg D. reported that the thank-you notes for gifts in Ken's honor have been sent. Nancy designed a thank-you note to the Clark family for the generous donations to Trails. Members signed and Greg D. will see that it is sent to Lori Clark and family.

Nancy submitted a report on her July 21 efforts to clean kiosks and restock maps and donation envelopes. She noted the kiosk at the Torsey Nature Preserve was still broken. The tree to which it was attached grew and popped the metal bands holding the kiosk. Tim Sniffen and Bruce Hunter have since repaired it and all is in order.

Also in her report, Nancy queried the narrowness of some trails, saying that it was difficult for two people to walk abreast or to pass people coming the other way. Greg D. said that he addressed that issue in his August Messenger report.

Finally we voted on officers for the coming year. Greg D. agreed to be chair for one more year; Holly and Jeanne said they were willing to continue their roles as secretary and treasurer, respectively. With the loss of Ken, we needed a new vice chair. Rob agreed to take that job with the caveat that he wasn't sure about the technology aspects, such as maintaining the Facebook page. Holly agreed to do that as part of her secretary duties. All officers were elected unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow