

# **Readfield Trails Committee Minutes**

## **March 24, 2021**

**Present:** Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Greg Durgin, Bob Harris, Jeanne Harris, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow

**Excused:** Henry Whittemore

**Absent:** Greg Leimbach

The meeting, which was held via Zoom, was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

The January minutes were approved via email and sent to the town clerk in February.

Also via email we agreed to move our meetings to the fourth Wednesday, instead of Tuesday. Acting CEO Clif Buuck requested this change to allow the Planning Board to meet on Tuesday and thus save on the cost of advertising for hearing announcements.

Jeanne announced that we have \$1,221.28 in our account. We will be paying for a sign for the north trail. It was taken down during the parking lot paving and disappeared.

Greg D. said that plans for Heritage Days are proceeding, and that Dennis Price is leading the effort with plans to focus on community.

Holly said that she reviewed the Strategic Plan and that it looks like revising it will be a lengthy process. Perhaps we should coordinate our work with the new Comprehensive Plan Committee's efforts.

Greg D. said that he's resigned from the Comprehensive Plan Committee, which will be contacting each town committee for input into a dozen chapters covering the review. That committee's plans are to have a new document ready for voter approval in the fall of 2022.

Greg D. said that the Age Friendly Committee has won a \$2,500 grant from AARP. The Readfield Conservation Commission agreed to put in an additional \$2,000 toward bluestone if the grant was awarded. The funds will go toward putting down blue stone to make trails more accessible.

In light of the pandemic, a spring work day with Kents Hill students seems unlikely, but Greg D. said he would contact a teacher there to check their status.

Rob asked about a work list, saying that some works need to be done on the Esker Trail, and we discussed some of the tasks that need to be done. Jeanne asked about the possibility of getting help from a tractor, and Bob and Greg D. said they would follow up.

Greg L. announced that there will be an event from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 30 to share memories of Ken Clark. Jeanne said that they would like us all to write something to put into a time capsule.

Rob updated us on the Carleton Pond Trail, for which we now have a trail agreement. He said that Brian has not yet opened up the access gate, and he is trying to get a commitment on that date. Brian has also offered to put up a kiosk that will do double duty for both the trail and for snowmobilers, but it will probably not be up until the fall.

Meanwhile, Rob is trying to gain some access for making the planned trail walkable for this summer. He suggested that perhaps we can put up some kind of temporary sign with our map and the rules to get us by until fall. Eventually we will need to build a bridge, but this summer with a little bit of work we can have a walkable trail around one side of the pond.

Nancy said when she snowmobiled the area in February that there was no sign of anyone venturing up onto the water section.

Rob said that the Kennebec Land Trust is trying to raise \$29,000 to purchase an additional 5 acres for the Tyler Preserve. Bob noted that it is currently 45 acres and includes some snowmobile trails.

Jeanne asked if after everyone has their shots if we can meet in the town office. Greg D. said that it is a possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 28.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow