

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

May 26, 2021

Present: Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker, Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Bob Harris, Steve Hayes, Greg Leimbach, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Jeanne Harris

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

After appointing a timekeeper, Bob presented the treasurer's report for Jeanne. We have \$1,446.28 in our account.

A discussion followed about whether or not we need to keep track separately of funds that are donated as opposed to those we receive from the town. Several members said they thought it would be helpful when we ask for approval to spend funds to be able to note that a project would be done with donated funds instead of taxpayer dollars.

It was also noted that it would be nice to be able to tell those who donated what their funds were used for.

Rob made a motion, amended by Greg L., that "From this point forward the treasurer keep two lines of accounting, one for donated funds and another for town monies, within our total account balance, and that the treasurer keep track of both income and disbursements for each." Nancy seconded. All approved.

The April minutes were reviewed. Rob moved they be approved, and Nancy seconded. Minutes approved with two abstentions from members who missed the last meeting.

Henry and Holly have volunteered to update the strategic plan. Many of the goals from the previous plan have been met. Henry said that he will begin by pulling out the goals that have yet to be accomplished and bring them to the committee for review and for suggestions for new goals. Our review of this plan coincides with the town's Comprehensive Plan update, so we will be sharing information with that committee and perhaps obtain some new ideas for goals from them as well. Gary Keilty is the lead on Trails for the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Rob reported that he is still trying to establish an opening time for the Carleton Pond trail. Brian from the Greater Augusta Utility District, who is coordinating the project with Rob, is concerned

about opening the gate before the access road into the property is blocked. He has some interns coming in June and hopes to put them to work on that project.

Meanwhile, Rob is working on a temporary kiosk for the summer, as Brian plans to wait until fall to build a more permanent kiosk for both hikers and snowmobilers. Rob sent us all photos of a fiberglass box that Brian offered as a temporary kiosk. Rob will follow up on that option.

The possibility for conflicts between snowmobilers and other users of trails was discussed. Nancy said it is an issue for her snowmobiling group. Greg D. suggested that Henry add guidelines for dealing with those conflicts into our strategic plan.

Nancy presented a report on the condition and cleanliness of the trail kiosks (attached). She suggested that many of the kiosks be painted. Paul asked if there was leftover paint available for that. Greg D. said that Tim Sniffen of the Readfield Conservation Commission usually tends to that and he will follow up. Nancy noted that several kiosks were without maps. Greg D. said he had just stocked them. It is unclear whether maps are being removed, reminiscent of the problem we had with the post office maps disappearing much too quickly. We no longer put maps at the post office.

Bob reported on the meeting of the Heritage Days Committee he attended (event planned for Aug. 13-15). As of now they are planning a wine and cheese gathering on Friday night, the Saturday breakfast, the pulling stone demonstration (cosponsored by Trails, RCC and the Historical Committee), a 5K race at the Fairgrounds and fireworks. Many things remain undecided because key people were missing from the meeting.

Greg L. suggested we might sponsor a separate trails event, along the lines of the international group Volks Vanderham, which hosts walks with a food tent at the end. An entry fee could be charged, and it would be a good vehicle for drawing in people from other towns. We would have to be careful not to conflict with other scheduled events. Also, the hot steamy weather in August is not ideal for such an event. They are often held in the fall. Greg L. said he would contact the established group in Southern Maine.

Greg D. said there have been some questions about the Trails Facebook page, which Ken used to do. Holly admitted that she was supposed to be doing it but had been avoiding Facebook because of all the politics. She will attend to it promptly.

Greg D. had several announcements:

- Milt did some work on the Esker Trail and has been blazing trails.
- The library is putting up storyboards on the Community Pathwayway.

— Paul did two hours of topnotch work spreading blue stone with his tractor and a new technique he's developed.

— The RCC installed a culvert and did some other drainage work at the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve.

— We are still hoping to do some work with the kids at Maranacook and Kents Hill School. Greg (L or D.?) will be following up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 23.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow

MEMORANDUM

TO: Readfield Trails Committee

FROM: Nancy L. Buker, Readfield Trails Committee Member

RE: Clean Trail Head Kiosks (5) and Interpretive Signs (2)
and Refill Boxes with Trail Donation cards/envelopes

DATE: May 25, 2021

On May 24, 2021 -- 2.0 hours were spent to sweep-down Trail Head Kiosks, wash outside of Plexiglas shield and refill the box with donation/contribution cards and envelopes. Also cleaned exterior surface of Interpretive Signs at Old Mill Stream Dam site.

The following observations and recommendations are offered:

- **Fogg Farm Reserve Trail Head:** Plexiglas cover cleaned.
Abandoned (?) bird nest present.
Trail maps present.
'Graffiti' on back side of Kiosk.
Loop Trail sign 'embedded' to tree trunk - reposition.
- **Old Fair Grounds Parking Lot Trail Head:** Plexiglas cover cleaned.
Abandoned (?) bird nest present.
Trail maps needed.
- **Torsey Shores Trail Head:** Plexiglas cover cleaned.
Abandoned (?) bird nests (2) present.
Trail maps needed.
NOTE: Kiosk is wobbly/not secure, but had been worked on.
- **Route 17 Trail Head:** Plexiglas - cleaned surface.
Abandoned (?) bird nest present.
- **Maranacook Community School Trail Head:** Outside case & Plexiglas cover cleaned.
Active hornet's nest inside 'locked' display cabinet.
Needs cleaning inside + new signs (3 maps & a Tick info sign).
- **Esker Trail Head:** None located at this time.
Recommend a Kiosk be installed for materials [maps, literature].
- **Old Mill Stream Dam Site:** Cleaned exterior surface of Interpretive signs (2) and poles.
Suggest re-paint metal poles.
Grass(es) infiltrating mulched pathways.

Recommend: All Kiosks be re-painted to help prevent further destructive elements to the wood.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy L. Buker
Readfield Trails Committee Member