

## **Readfield Trails Committee Minutes**

### **October 27, 2021**

**Present:** Paul Bessette, Nancy Buker (via Zoom), Jackie Drouin, Greg Durgin, Steve Hayes, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

**Excused:** Greg Leimbach

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Jackie agreed to be timekeeper.

Nancy moved the September minutes be approved, and Henry seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Jackie reported that we took in \$2 at the kiosk. We spent \$41.59 on maps. Jackie forgot to bring the report with our current total but emailed it later. Our current balance is \$4,838.52, \$752.46 of which is from donations to date.

She also looked into whether the culvert for the Morrill Road trail has been purchased. Teresa and Eric didn't think so, but Eric said he'd look into it. She also asked about whether Trails would pay for it. Teresa said normally the committee that orders the work pays, but Eric said some of it might come out of the town's general or road budget, as the expense is large and would make a big dent in Trails' small budget.

The culvert is not the only cost; the work to install it and add landings on each side of Route 17 could be costly. Eric informed her later via email that our project would be included in the next culvert order placed.

Jackie also asked about the "in-kind volunteer contributions" for those supplying a tractor. Greg had been using \$25. Teresa said the town used to assign the committees cost for tractor work, but they no longer do that.

Paul praised the painting of the kiosks, which Jackie, Greg D. and Tim Sniffen did.

Henry said he would follow up on a sign for the chestnut tree.

Jackie passed around samples of possible signs for the kiosks. We decided to go with "Please support our Readfield Trails. Thank you!" with the Readfield Trails logo. We discussed what style of paper, printing and how we want to attach them to the boxes. One option is to go to a commercial printer and have them printed on adhesive, like a bumper sticker, or print it and laminate at the town office.

The committee reviewed Henry's changes to the strategic plan. The committee worked its way through the document, adding and deleting text and editing wording. We agreed to limit as much as possible naming specific people, groups or entities in the document. Henry said he would implement the suggestions, do some

more editing and come back at a future meeting with the improved document. Rob expressed a desire to make the document as short and concise as reasonably possible.

A discussion on keys revealed that the only key we have is one for the Maranacook kiosk, for which Greg has the only copy. He will make another copy. Nancy said she knew of no keys other than the one for the Trails filing cabinet on the stage in the meeting room. That filing cabinet also contains all Trails books and papers.

Steve reported on his efforts to kill weeds with a solution of vinegar and salt. He said the effects were noticeable, but it is unclear how thorough or permanent. There are areas where the weeds are going through the geotech that may be difficult to attack. He has nothing new to report on his efforts to determine maintenance/ownership of the trails behind Maranacook.

We discussed the plans for the work day tomorrow. Paul was kind enough to blow the leaves off the trails.

The stewards reported that their trails looked good. We discussed additional blazing for the Fogg Farm trail to make the directions clearer in light of heavy leaf cover.

Rob reported that the inner gate at the Carlton Pond has been installed and that once the trail has been completed Brian of GAUD will open the outer gate. Brian said he does not have time to build the kiosk, although he will install a couple of posts, so we will need to take the lead on that. We discussed the size of the kiosk and what might be included. Rob said he will be organizing some trail-building days in November. He has already flagged the trail. Nancy noted that it's the Winthrop snowmobile club that uses that area, not Readfield, and that group might have some useful expertise in building the trail.

On November 1 there will be a forum on future use of the Fairgrounds. Several committees, including Trails, will have ten minutes to offer its views. Rob asked if anyone has anything to offer. Discussions on the Fairgrounds have so far revolved around a possible new ball field, basketball court and concessions stand.

Rob reviewed the revised policies the Selectboard is adopting for boards and committees. They require that the agenda be sent to the town clerk at least three days before the meeting and draft minutes should be submitted within a week after the meeting. Materials for meetings need to be available electronically to allow the public to participate via Zoom.

Rob and Jackie will be working with Eric to discuss next year's budget. Need to include money for blue stone, maps, kiosk materials, signs.

Our next meeting would fall on Thanksgiving eve. We discussed how and when we might meet, as we usually skip December. Rob said he will email potential dates.

At the next meeting we will follow up on Carlton Pond and the budget. We will save further discussion of the strategic plan for January.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow