

**Readfield Trails Committee Minutes**  
**January 28, 2020**

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

**Excused:** Henry Whittemore

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Paul agreed to be the timekeeper.

Holly passed out copies of the November minutes. One error was noted and corrected. Ken moved the minutes be approved; Jeanne seconded. Approved unanimously.

Jeanne reported that the current balance in our account is \$1,875.41. She noted that we started in July with \$2,510 and have spent \$634.59 on bluestone, signs, maps, etc.

Rob reported on the meeting that he and Ken, Bob, Greg L. and Readfield Conservation Commission members Bruce Hunter and Andrew Walsh attended with Brian Tarbuck of the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) and its other representatives regarding the possible development of trails in the Carleton Pond area.

Rob said that GAUD representatives are receptive to the unimproved, non-motorized trails he suggested. They are concerned, however about maintaining the pristine quality of the pond, preventing ATV access and making sure people clean up after their dogs. They also want a steward assigned to the trail.

Because these trails would not be on Readfield property, we cannot use RTC funds for signs, bluestone, etc., but GAUD has funds available for those items, perhaps as much as \$2,500 the first year and a maintenance budget in subsequent years. They may also provide wood chips from tree harvesting on the property.

GAUD would not pay for plowing the parking lot in the winter, so Rob will check with Eric regarding town plowing options.

Rob suggested that we might also contact adjacent landowners. We might be able to build a trail that would connect Carleton Pond land to KLT land.

The next step is to walk the property for possible trail routes and to assess any low-lying areas that remain wet. There is no rush on this project, so Rob suggested the first walk be done in perhaps March, depending on snow cover, with a follow-up check in midsummer when the weather is dry.

In the meantime Rob will contact the adjacent landowners.

Regarding the Church Road sidewalk, there is nothing new.

The possibility of providing trail mileage on new maps was discussed. Holly said that Don can provide that information and add it to the map, but perhaps it would be best to wait until we have another change to the map, such as adding the Morrill Road trail, which is nearly complete.

Regarding the Morrill Road trail, Rob said that Eric has not contacted the Maine Department of Transportation regarding the crossing of Route 17, which is a safety issue. He said he will check with Eric and see if it's OK to do it himself. We also need to provide for a better crossing of the ditch by the road, perhaps a culvert.

Greg L. suggested that while we are communicating with the DOT we might also want to follow up on changes to the speed limit and the signs on the edge of the main village area, which is expanding with more people utilizing trails along Route 17.

In regard to two potential trails on Saunders property Rob, Bob and Nancy went to speak to Larry Mace. Saunders has limited operations at that plant and is managed from out-of-state, so they didn't really get a feel as to whether the company would be open to trails on its property. Rob is going to talk to Larry again and see if he can find out what the company's attitude toward the trails might be.

Greg D. asked for suggestions about the 2020-21 budget. Jeanne suggested we include funds for culverts. There are three places on the Esker trail that could benefit, as well as the Morrill Road ditch. We also need signage for the Morrill Road trail.

Greg L. suggested we budget some money, perhaps \$500, for a connector trail across the Draper property that would connect the KLT Rosmarin trail to the McDonald easement. Progress on an easement for the entire Draper property has been slow, but we might have more luck getting permission for just a connector trail.

Rob brought up the issue of stewards again. We had previously discussed this issue and assigned stewards for some trails. Rob was unaware that he is the steward for the Esker trail. Greg D. checks out the Fairgrounds trail regularly, and Bob and Jeanne tend the Fog Farm trail.

Nancy expressed concern that the \$100 garnered from her envelope kiosk endeavor should go to a specific purpose. She said perhaps that donation and others should go to printing maps. Holly noted that more than \$100 has already been spent printing maps, so we are covered so far. Also, funds from donations might not have to follow the guidelines for taxpayer funds, but we need to check with the town on whether that money could be used for trails outside the Readfield owned system.

Rob asked about putting the high school-owned trails on the map. We could do so after they have been tended. Someone suggested that students could help with that. Rob and Greg L. said they would follow up.

The next meeting will be February 25, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow