

February 3, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Milt Wright, Will Harris, Nancy Buker, Chris Sammons, Bob Harris, Jeanne Harris, Lydia Adelson, Ken Clark, Gary Keilty, Ann Keilty, Rob Peale, Romaine Turyn, Karen Peterson

Excused Absent: Henry Laidlaw

Visitor: Ellen Blanchard

Chair Milt Wright called the meeting to order at the Town Office at 6:30 PM. It was noted that this meeting was originally postponed due to a snow storm.

Chair Wright stated his, Romaine's and Rob Peale's terms are up on June 30, 2015. Milt said he would not seek re-appointment.

There was some discussion on what constitutes an excused absence.

November 2014 Minutes: Motion to accept by Will Harris, seconded by Ann Keilty. Unanimous.

December 16, 2014 Minutes: Motion to accept by Chris Sammons, seconded by Will Harris. Lydia Adelson and Karen Peterson abstained. Motion passed.

Chair Wright introduced Ellen Blanchard. Ellen was a charter member of the Trails Committee and she is completing a Master's project involving Maine geology. Specifically, Ellen wants to develop educational pamphlets describing the geology of the 49 rocks placed around the Fairgrounds parking area. The pamphlets are expected to cost \$.08 each. There was some discussion on funding the pamphlets. Motion to "seed the project" with \$25.00 by Gary Keilty, seconded by Ken Clark. One opposed, one abstention. Motion passed.

Fairgrounds signage: Ann and Gary Keilty showed one of the signs. All present were pleased with the look and information provided. It was noted all signs will be paid for by the RSU #38 Trails project and sale of trees harvested from the Town Forest by the Conservation Commission.

Budget Presentation: Chair Wright reported on the joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the Select Board. The Trails Committee budget request was presented by Will Harris and Chair Wright. The Conservation Commission also presented their request and it included two items related to trails-the installation of some water bars at the Fogg Farm Conservation Area and the purchase of a heavy duty brush cutter.

The total Trails Committee budget request was for \$2,576.40.

Church Road Sidewalk/Trail status: Will Harris reported he met with Doug Beck, who is in charge of the RTP grant. The time frame to apply for a grant is by the second week of November. The RTP will not pay for a sidewalk. Any approved trail has to be off a road and not adjacent to it. The maximum request can be \$35,000.00. Will showed the extensive grant application and stated there must be at least a 20% match of in-kind volunteer services. Regarding the safety issue of the Morrill Road and Route 17 intersection, Doug Beck suggested installing motion detector signs on Route 17. The lights are designed to flash when sensors detect movement on the trail. Mr. Beck said DOT may be able to install the signs, too.

Committee Chairs Meeting with Select Board: Gary Keilty reported the most discussion was about the Liaison Policy. Many of the Chairs present questioned their purpose and were not in favor of them. A new ad hoc committee was announced to review and revise the Appointment Procedures Policy. It will be a six member group composed of two Select Board members, two Committee Chairs and two members of the public. Val Pomerleau and Tom Dunham will be the Select Board members.

Tolman property trails update: Chair Wright and Gary Keilty walked the property, including the former Town landfill, and then got copies of town maps depicting the area. There is a stream near the old landfill that would need to be crossed to access the rest of the property. All but one of the existing neighbors has given their approvals for the trail, pending Town Meeting approval.

Fairgrounds Complex flooding update: Ann Keilty showed pictures of the flooding on the connector trail near the new ball field that runs right over the Upper Fairgrounds Trail. Why the area floods is unknown. Gary Keilty will ask Doug Riley if he can look at it and figure out why the flooding happens. Chair Wright sent an email to Chair Dan Meyer, Conservation Commission, to inform the Conservation Commission they may have to pay for more work to fix the problem.

Discussion on Chair Wright's "Update by Chair on General Goals, Highlights of Recent Accomplishments and Plans for the New Year": Milt distributed the document he prepared. All present agreed it was well done.

Greater Augusta Utilities District update: Ann and Gary Keilty reported on the committee the District plans to create involving member towns. It is hoped a couple Trails Committee members could also join. Chair Wright contacted Brian Tarbuck, the Utilities District Director, to express interest and support to the committee.

Discussion on Trails Planning: Ken Clark showed the new Kennebec Lands Trust Trails Guide and suggested developing a similar guide for the Town. Perhaps the Trails Committee should consider future plans and priorities, including publicizing trail efforts. It was decided by consensus to spend a portion of the next Trails Committee meeting on planning.

Discussion on Warrant Article: There was some general discussion on how best to draft the language. There was also discussion on what criteria the Select Board should consider for trail easements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peterson
Secretary