

February 24, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Excused Absent: Jeanne Harris, Ken Clark, Milt Wright

Visitor: Gloria Peterson, Micah Peterson

Vice Chair Gary Keilty called the meeting to order at the Town Office at 6:30 PM.

Nancy Buker asked what constitutes an excused absence. Discussion produced a consensus-either prior notification of an absence or a good explanation after the fact,

February 3, 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept by Nancy Buker, seconded by Will Harris. Unanimous.

Gary Keilty described the February 23, 2015 Select Board meeting. The Budget Committee approved the Trails Committee budget request, but the Select Board did not. Select Board member Tom Dunham said he felt the Trails Committee should receive no Town funds. The Select Board claims there are safety issues with the proposed trails at Morrill Road and by the old landfill. Much discussion followed regarding this meeting.

Trail Name Change: There was brief discussion on the name change to Community Pathway. Motion to change the trail name from Library Trail to the Community Pathway. Motion to accept by Rob Peale, seconded by Romaine Turyn. Unanimous.

Nancy Buker questioned the content and verbiage of the Union Meeting House Agreement that was used to attempt the continuation of the Library Trail onto Union Meeting House property, and wants the document changed. Karen Peterson explained it was created by a non-Town entity and its creation far preceded the current Select Board's desire to oversee all trail agreements or easements.

Strategic Planning ideas: Advertise the trails on the Town website-Rob Peale will talk with Town Clerk Robin Lint about this. Have Trails Maps available in more locations. Try to coordinate more with Kents Hill School and the Greater Augusta Utilities District. Promote volunteer opportunities. Extol virtues of the trails system-develop hand-outs for Elementary and Maranacook Schools. Work more with the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Board-should be no cost to do. Link up with the White Barn staff to promote Healthy Community program. Ask the Select Board to include an article on the Secret Ballot authorizing appropriated funds to be raised by the trails Committee-Money could be donations instead of tax dollars. Find out how other communities fund their trails. Promote the trails during the March 5 and 12, 2015 Secret Ballot Informational Meetings. Become a private, not-for-profit trails organization-Perhaps look at KLT as a model and ask this organization to explain the process. How will the use of gifts or donations be defined or clarified within the Town's system of Accounts and the annual Warrant?

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peterson
Secretary