

## March 24, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Chair Milt Wright called the meeting to order at the Town Office at 6:30 PM.

February 24, 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept by Ann Keilty, seconded by Jeannie Harris. Approved by nine with three abstaining.

Select Board Warrant Articles: Milt Wright reported as a follow-up to his March 17, 2015 email regarding proposed funding for FY 15 Trails Committee. The Select Board again recommended no funding. Dana Therrien, a resident then came forward and said he would donate \$2700 to the Trails Committee. According to Teresa Shaw, Interim Town Manager, any funds donated before July 1, 2015 would go into the Undesignated Fund balance because no provisions were made during the previous Town Meeting to allow such a donation. The donor suggested putting the money into an escrow account until July 1, yet it is unsure whether this is possible.

Trail Easements: The Select Board originally dropped all references to easements in their proposed policy. Perhaps the Board doesn't understand the full possibilities of easements and that, by not allowing them, property owners entering into agreements only may actually restrict the owner's flexibility of use. It was mentioned the State of Maine has over 1,000,000 acres in a variety of easements. There was some discussion on the different types and purposes of easements.

Trail Name Change: The changing of the name from Library Trail to Community Pathway has been formally recognized.

Brushcutter Update: Milt Wright explained the original funding request of the Conservation Commission and how it became a potential liability issue for the Town. A resident, John Parent, said he would purchase a brushcutter and allow volunteers to use it. He would retain ownership and control over it. Whether this will reduce the liability issue is still to be determined.

Secret Ballot Update: The election will be June 9, 2015.

Greater Augusta Utilities District and Trails Possibilities: No updated information was available from Brian Tarbuck, the District's Director, to share. Milt asked if any Trails Committee members could develop a preliminary plan for trails on the District's property. The plan would then be approved by the whole Trails Committee, then forwarded to the Utilities District. There will be more discussion on this topic during the next Trails Committee meeting.

Update on the Former Lukas Property: Milt Wright reported he attended the recent Conservation Commission meeting and Jerry Bley reported the current property owners were so pleased with the trails that they wanted to grant an easement over their property. This has not been pursued due to the Select Board's concern over easements.

Ball Field Update: Gary Keilty reported on the recent meeting of the Ball Field Committee. David Erb stated his concern about possible flooding along the first base line. It seems the French drain installed

there may be pushing the water onto the McDougald Trail. A gate has been fabricated to prevent non-emergency motor vehicles access. Gary Keilty will remind the Ball Field Committee of the need to treat the poison ivy again.

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee: Milt Wright suggested forming a sub-committee for this purpose. Ken Clark, Lydia Adelson and Henry Laidlaw volunteered.

National Trails Day: It will be on June 6, 2015. It was suggested that Ellen Blanchard could be asked to conduct a Geology Walk in the Fairgrounds. Ellen is the individual who is designing a brochure about the geology of the rocks used to border the Fairgrounds parking area.

Update on the Union Meeting House Trail Agreement: Milt Wright polled their Board members and all agreed to change the trail name from the Library Trail to the Community Pathway.

Update on Select Board Criteria for Trail Agreements Policy: Select Board members Greg Durgin and Valarie Pomeleau have been appointed to the sub-committee. Easements are again being considered.

Discussion on Upcoming Trails Needs: The new trails signs will be installed by the Conservation Commission.

Some money will have to be spent this fiscal year to begin the work on the Mill Stream Trail.

A work day will be needed at the Kennebec Land Trust Echo I property. Milt Wright will advise when this will take place.

The completion of the Union Meeting House and Community Pathway will be on the upcoming FY 15 Secret Ballot.

Gary Keilty reported he discussed the possible former landfill/Tolman property trail with Lenny Reay, who seemed positive about the trail.

The flagging of the discontinued portion of Morrill Road was discussed. Many present felt the Trails Committee didn't have the support of the Select Board to continue with this trail development currently. Motion to put a temporary hold on this trail by Ann Keilty, seconded by Ken Clark. Approved by ten with two against.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Peterson  
Secretary