

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes
October 24, 2017

Present: Nancy Buker, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin, Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Becky Walsh

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

Henry Whittemore was welcomed as a new member.

The minutes were read and approved.

Jeanne reported that the current balance in our account is \$2,228. Expenses included the cost of the Porta Potty.

Ken and Rob updated progress on the Esker Trail. They appeared before the Select Board last week and presented the plan, which was approved. But the Select Board is looking at making some changes to the transfer station road, including making it narrower. Rob suggested moving the trail over to along the bus garage fence.

On Sunday Ken walked the trail, which Rob had already marked, with Town Manager Eric and his family. The trail is about a mile, then you turn around and walk back.

Some additional discussion about the marking of the trail and which way ambler should begin walking and then cross over to the woods so as to avoid conflicts with traffic and the transfer station. We also talked about the building of the trail and required maintenance.

The Kents Hill School students will be working on the trail on Nov. 2 (rain delay from Oct. 26). Rob said there will be more than enough to keep them busy. We discussed plans for the day, including managing the kids and needed tools.

Rob and Greg and others plan to walk the trail again this weekend to solidify details.

Bob covered the moving of the blue stone and other materials, which were previously and mistakenly placed in the parking lot, onto some trails. Bob and Jeanne and Gary and Ann Keilty worked for several hours clearing the paths.

Greg led a discussion on the budget. He suggested we budget some money for gas and oil for chainsaws and other equipment we borrow. Rob suggested we'd need money for signs for the Esker Trail.

Some discussion of possible new trails. Nancy suggested a route for a loop trail off the Fairgrounds trail. Ken brought up the Morrill trail. Greg said he will cost out those trails.

Greg said there are some big pulling stones from the old fairgrounds that the Cemetery Committee is not going to use and might be available to place at trail heads. Bob said he'd like to see a trail built to where the stones are now. Nancy suggested using old photos on a sign to show how they were used in the past. Perhaps we could coordinate with the Historical Society/Conservation Committees. Greg asked if it could be a town project.

Bob and some others did some work on the Mill Stream dam project, trying to save some money. The bids for the dam came in too high, so it won't be happening this year. Eric suggested doing some of the work in house and just contracting out bits of it.

Nancy asked about the complaint from the Union Meeting House abutter who is objecting to the trail, saying it woke up the wife, who works nights, when their dogs bark at people on the trail. Greg said he talked to her a couple months ago and she followed up with Eric, but he's heard nothing more since then.

Next meeting will be November 28.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow