

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes
November 28, 2017

Present: Nancy Buker, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin, Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Ben McIntosh, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Becky Walsh, Henry Whitemore

Guest: Susan Tolman

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

Ben McIntosh was welcomed as a new member. Susan Tolman, who has volunteered on work days along with her husband Andy, was visiting with a possible view to joining.

The minutes were read and approved with changes.

Jeanne reported that the current balance in our account is \$2,228.

Members shared their Thanksgiving Day activities.

Greg reported on the Select Board meeting he'd been to the night before, which was focused on the town committees, what they do and recruiting possible new members.

Rob continues to take the lead on the Esker Trail. He has been updating members on progress on the Esker Trail via email. He started blazing the trail and the rest has been flagged. Rob said that it is ready for use and should be publicized. It can be put on Facebook page and listed in the Messenger. Several people have already walked it.

Committee members offered input on the upcoming town budget. Some suggestions for expenses included the cost of maintaining trails, possible new trails, such as the Morrill extension, Nickerson Hill or Roderick Hill off of P Ridge, a map of trails that would show the gaps with an eye toward filling them in later, and working with other community entities.

We discussed possible locations for signs, which are expensive, and budgeting for them. We might also budget for benches, the cost of which can vary from inexpensive wood to granite.

We also talked about the possibility of paying volunteers for gas and oil for their chainsaws and other equipment. After discussion it was agreed that it would be better to let volunteers choose whether or not to bring their own equipment and for the volunteer to pay the costs of running it.

Rob asked if we could request money for trails not yet defined, and Greg said yes. Bob said we should ask for money for maps. He also suggested we ask for funds for culverts.

Greg is going to put together a budget and send it out to all of us to review before he submits it to the town.

We discussed the draft Protocol for Establishing New Trails that Greg put together. He suggested that having a procedure for establishing a new trail might make the process more efficient and clear cut.

Henry noted that we have to be careful to approach landowners and abutters appropriately and in advance of proposing new trails and/or publishing maps.

Rob suggested adding volunteer steward to the draft, which tied into a discussion about trash problems. We can set out trash cans, but someone will have to maintain and empty them.

Nancy suggested adding the Trails' mission statement to the top of the form.

It was moved and unanimously passed that Greg will revise the form and present a new draft. He will send it out a week before the next meeting.

Nancy brought in an article about E-Bikes and how they might relate to motorized vehicles, which could include anything from wheelchairs to ATVs. We are going to continue to evaluate the possibilities and be proactive in dealing with them.

We will be ordering the signs for the Esker Trail and put them up in the spring.

There is no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8: p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow