

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes
January 30, 2018

Present: Nancy Buker, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin, Greg Leimbach, Ben McIntosh, Rob Peale, Holly Rahmlow, Henry Whittemore

Excused: Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Becky Walsh

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Greg Leimbach was welcomed as a new member.

The minutes were read and approved unanimously.

Greg D. reported that the current balance in our account is \$1,688 after the purchase of two signs.

Greg D. passed out the protocol for establishing new trails. Other than one typo the only other suggestion was to change the word protocol to guidelines. It was agreed to use it primarily for the committee's use. We also agreed to put it on the website, and Greg will mention it in his next Messenger article after Ken makes the changes.

Greg L. passed around a map showing the 331 acres of the Draper property, for which the New England Forestry Foundation has the "rights and resources for a conservation easement." This property abuts the recently acquired Kennebec Land Trust's Rosmarin plot, and the Conservation Commission has made NEFF aware of the recreational value of this property. There may be an opportunity for some trails down the road.

Some discussion over funding for trails not on Readfield property, for which we cannot use town money.

Nancy provided some information about grants from LL Bean. Trails isn't eligible because we aren't a 501(c)(3), but some of the groups we partner with might be able to utilize the grants.

Greg D. updated the group on the progress of a proposal to install solar panels at the Fairgrounds.

Greg D. discussed the upcoming meeting where Trails' budget will be presented to the Budget Committee.

Greg D. brought up the topic of work logs. It was agreed to bump up the hourly rate to \$11 from \$10 to match minimum wage. The rate is considerably higher for tractor work.

Greg D. said he saw four-wheeler tracks on the Fairgrounds trail, where they should not be.

The old bleachers were removed from the Fairgrounds in December, and there are plans for some kind of historical marker/sign.

Rob wanted to know what trails we are going to work on this year. Greg D. noted that there will still be some work to finish on the Mill Stream project, and Rob said the same is true of the Esker Trail.

Rob suggested that perhaps we might want to work on the Morrill Road trail. Some discussion of where the trail might begin and go and whether we might be able to make use of existing snowmobile trails.

Greg D. said that when a Morrill Road trail was proposed years ago, it was quickly nixed then, and issues still remain re parking, crossing the road, and landowners' concerns.

Henry suggested taking a larger view of the trail situation, of what trails are where and noting where gaps might be. Talk then turned to maps and our plans to redo them, which is in our budget. The discussion raised a lot of questions about how to do the maps and what our ultimate goal in maintaining the maps is.

It was suggested that we devote more time to the conversation at our February meeting and then perhaps have a workshop in March.

The next meeting should be February 27, but there might be a conflict with the Budget Committee. Greg will look into it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow