

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

March 27, 2018

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

Excused: Greg Leimbach, Henry Whittemore

Guest: Chris Sammons

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Jeanne reported that the current balance in our account is \$1,688.

Chris Sammons spoke about her goal as a Select Board member to increase the use of the trails. She is planning a family-fun-oriented event on August 11, during Heritage Days.

Also, on Halloween she wants to plan a trunk or treat, where the kids walk from the library to the Town Office and get treats from car trunks.

She is open to any ideas others might have as well and asked for volunteers.

The minutes for February were read and approved. Rob, Becky and Ben were absent in February and abstained.

The minutes for January were read and approved. Bob, Jeanne and Becky were absent in January and abstained.

Ken passed out a summation of the meeting he, Rob and Nancy had with Don Rahmlow regarding his mapping software and how it can be used to create printable maps.

We had some discussion of what kind of GPS interface will be easiest and work with the software.

Greg asked if landmarks will be on the map. Ken said probably not because we want to keep the maps clean.

Rob suggested we collect all the details when we GPS the trails, even if they don't all make it onto the map.

Nancy said she told the snowmobile group about the map software, but she's not sure if they're interested. Snowmobile trails require a big map covering large areas.

Ken et al. will continue with their work. Greg L. is out of town. Don can't send him the software to experiment with because his computer is a Mac, not a PC, which isn't compatible. Hopefully he will be back soon and can attend the next meeting of the group.

Rob will be out of town for the month of April as well, so the map group will not be able to resume work until May.

Greg said he didn't have any new information about the Draper property, but he will update us if he learns anything new about the New England Forestry Foundation's plans.

Rob asked if anyone had a map of the property so he could see what roads about it.

Bob updated us on the Mill Stream Dam project. He was offered more wood chips from the Poulins if we need any more. We will need to wait a little longer until the snow has cleared.

There was discussion of how the Mill Stream Dam can be filled in so it will be safe to walk across. Bob said there is a machine that can cut the top of the cement so it can be filled in and then resurfaced. It costs \$170 a day to rent this machine.

At the January meeting Henry raised several questions, including about how we keep track of the trails and what needs to be done, when it needs to be done and who is going to do it.

Jeanne said she and Bob were assigned as stewards of the Fogg Trail and Milt Wright and Gary Keilty were stewards for the Fairgrounds Trail. Rob has been taking the lead on the Esker Trail. Greg said many of the trails are walked regularly and planning is made when the school kids are scheduled to help.

Jeanne said that she and Bob signed something when they agreed to be stewards, but we don't know where the records are and what other trails might have stewards.

Nancy suggested we keep a record of the trails and their maintenance. She also said that Trails has a file cabinet with stuff in it, including some books purchased by Trails in the early days.

Greg said he will look for that cabinet. Nancy volunteered to help. He will also look for and report back on any documents regarding easements, conservation, etc.

We returned to the discussion of possible new trails. Rob volunteered to work on the Morrill Road Trail, if approved.

Nancy brought up another possible trail on the Fairgrounds, which she has mentioned before. Her idea is to make the Fairgrounds Trail a circle rather than an out-and-back. She said that she has broached this trail previously, but that there were objections from a property owner. She says more bushes have grown up so maybe it will be more acceptable now.

Nancy and Greg will set a time to walk that trail and let the rest of the committee know in case they also want to go, and Greg will broach the topic with the property owner.

Ben noted that there is a big washout on the Esker Trail that he fears might be dangerous, that people might walk off the trail and fall. We'll look at that when the snow goes.

Greg passed out a document with the budget and a list of in-kind contributions from Trails volunteers as of June. He said there was some confusion about the number being presented to the Budget Committee including the carryover, so it looks like we are getting more than we should, and he will tend to that.

Greg thinks the Kents Hill School work day will be April 23, but he's not sure.

Greg said he will plan the work based on the weather. Rob noted that there needs to be some cleanup on the approach to the Esker Trail. Greg said that the students often work on the Fairgrounds because it's sunny and dries out quickly.

Greg noted that his term on Trails is up, as are several others. He said he will talk to Robin about getting the forms for re-upping on the committee.

Greg admitted that the lack of a Trails write-up in the April Messenger is his fault, but that Robin said she'd post it on the website.

Nancy asked if anyone has any funding ideas. Holly suggested we all present an idea at our next meeting. Rob noted that KLT has kiosks with envelopes for donations. Nancy said they have applications and envelopes in a box on their property for snowmobilers to join and that it works.

Bob noted that many of the people who use the Trails are nonresidents and would probably gladly donate toward the trails. Greg suggested they could be Friends of Readfield Trails.

The next meeting will be April 24.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow