

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

April 24, 2018

Present: Nancy Buker, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin, Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Holly Rahmlow

Excused: Greg Leimbach, Ben McIntosh, Rob Peale, Henry Whittemore, Becky Walsh

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

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Greg said the KHS work day has been rescheduled for May 1 due to the weather. Jeanne will be taking charge of the crew, but other volunteers and equipment are needed.

Greg updated us on several items. He said he planned for the kids to work on the Esker Trail, but the wood chips set aside for the project have disappeared, so that project is on hold.

The easements for Trails are kept on file in the Town Office, but he did not find anything about the stewards being assigned to maintain specific trails, and Milt Wright told him there were none. However, Jeanne recalls signing such a form. Greg will look into it further.

Nancy said we have a blank steward form and then produced one.

Re the Draper property: On 1 p.m. on May 4 Jerry Bley and a Mr. Brune from the New England Forestry Foundation will lead a walk of the property.

There are two RFPs out: One for the Mill Stream Dam Project and another for the Conservation Commission grant for \$35,000 on the parking lot at the fairgrounds and the Torsey Nature Preserve.

There will be a public hearing on the budget on April 26. Ken will try to attend, and Greg will come late to represent Trails in case there are any questions about our funds, which is not anticipated.

There will be two fall work days for KHS and MCS. Greg asked us to be thinking about what projects we want to tackle. The kids are excellent for cleanup.

National Trails Day will be June 2. Rob had suggested we should hold an event for that day. Greg said the national organization will send a group of experienced trail builders to come for a week and to build a trail.

If we want to do something, we will have to plan it right away, as we only have one more meeting.

Greg also discussed the installation of signs. We might be able to have use of an auger, which would make the task much easier. We have the signs; the posts are in the Town Office.

Greg said that Becky is no longer going to be attending Trails meetings and will not be re-upping her membership.

Holly asked if the group would like her to include a paragraph about Trails in the newsletter she does for the Torsey Pond Association. The group will review what she writes up at the next meeting.

Greg asked if anyone had any ideas for fundraising. Jeanne said she didn't think we should go beyond putting envelopes on the trails for people to donate if they wish. Nancy does something similar on her property for snowmobilers and brought a picture in of what she and her husband have set up. Greg is going to check with Eric to see if we can do that.

Greg said we might want to have a dinner at the Weathervane like the Union Meeting House did, raising \$900. His wife suggested a scavenger hunt on the trails.

Another option would be an Easter egg hunt. We could even put prizes inside the eggs. They don't have to be called Easter eggs if we did them in August in conjunction with the Fun Day.

Greg said that someone had dumped off their trash at the Fairgrounds kiosk. He loaded it in his truck and took a photo of it and sent it to Eric.

On May 12 there is a trash pickup day along the roads of Readfield, and some Trails members are taking part.

Ken suggested we put out plastic bags for doggie do, but Bob noted that on a trail he and Jeanne walk that they see the bags thrown out because people don't want to carry it back. It's better if they just get the poop off the trail rather than leaving plastic bags everywhere.

The next meeting will be May 22.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow