

Readfield Trails Committee Minutes

May 22, 2018

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

Excused: Greg Leimbach

Unexcused: Ben McIntosh

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Jeanne reported that the work day with the Kents Hill School students went well. They hauled blue stone to the connector trail. Jeanne said the five kids and two adults from KHS plus other volunteers worked hard from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ken passed out a document updating the group on the progress on the mapping project. The next step is to meet with Don again and then walk the trails to record on a GPS. There was some discussion on what kind of GPS files are needed to be compatible. Rob will coordinate with Kennebec Land Trust to see what technology they are working with and will coordinate with Don.

Bob reported that a history walk was held with Dale Potter-Clark at the Mill Stream Dam. Bob said there is an old kiln and a well with a rotten lid on adjoining property owned by the Cotes. There was some discussion of how we should go about following up on the rotten well cover. It could be dangerous, and the land is not posted. We decided that we should not involve the town but rather just construct a new well lid and perhaps post some signs with the consent of the landowner.

Bob said that we will be building a small walkway along the bottom of the Mill Stream Dam and then a trail above it. The biggest expense will be putting a metal rail along the edge to keep people from falling in. Bob said he thinks that it will take most of the \$6,200 in available funds. The project is moving along, with trees cut and cleared, thanks to Bob and other volunteers.

The \$30,000 grant the town won will be used mostly for some work at The Torsey Pond Nature Preserve but also at the Fairgrounds parking lot. (Note to committee: I can include the exact amounts for each project if someone provides them. I missed them for some reason.)

Greg reported on the meeting they had regarding the Draper property. The New England Forestry Foundation is trying to purchase the property or if not purchase it then get a conservation

easement. If NEFF owns the property or the easement allows, we might be part of an effort to build trails.

June 2 is National Trails Day. We hadn't planned anything official but discussed walking the Esker Trail to honor the day. We decided instead to make it a work day and have a walk on the August fun day.

We will be starting at 9:30 a.m. after the fireman's breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Greg said there are posts available for signs, but we need a post-hole digger for three signs on the Esker Trail. Greg L. has a tractor if we can find a mechanical one, but since there are only three we can probably do it by hand. Rob said if people want to help in addition to the signs, there is other work to do on the trail, such as picking up debris.

Rob said he is getting ready to blaze the trail and asked if anyone had objections to yellow paint. No one did.

Greg reported that the Appalachian Trail Club will be coming to Readfield to build trails sometime this summer.

We had more discussion about having a kiosk for donation envelopes. Nancy said they have had success with their kiosks for the snowmobile club. Greg said, he will check with Eric to see if there is any town objection to posting similar kiosks so trail users can make donations.

Greg mentioned that there is a group you can join for \$90 a year to help with grant writing. Henry said he doesn't see any immediate need for a grant. Bob noted that grants are best for big projects. We decided not to pursue membership for the time being.

Upcoming events include September work days, the Easter in August scavenger event (Greg will coordinate), and a gathering where a group of residents are planning building fairy/gnome houses along the edge of a trail in June.

Jeanne noted that the historical society will be opening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, the beginning of the season for the society.

The next meeting will be June 26.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow