

September 22, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting

Present: Lydia Adelson, Nancy Buker, Hank Laidlaw, Ann Keilty, Gary Keilty, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin, Karen Peterson

Excused Absent: Will Harris, Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Rob Peale

Guest: Becky Walsh, possible Trails Committee Member

Secretary's Report: None, as no meeting in August 2015.

Maranacook Community Day: Scheduled for September 23, 2015, there will be 20 students and two staff advisors who will work on two projects. Rip rap material will be put on the McDougald Trail and water bars will be created in other areas. Also, geotech fabric and bluestone will be put down on the connector trail. The students will use wheelbarrows and provide much needed physical labor. Thanks were extended to Greg Durgin for his help in arranging Maranacook's participation.

Trails/Select Board visit to old landfill area: Hank Laidlaw reported the Select Board seemed positive about a trail possibility. There was discussion on where to locate a parking area and consensus was to place it on the previous landfill access road.

Building the trail should be relatively easy, as it can take advantage of the existing esker. One culvert is anticipated to be needed. If the trail connects with the trails already on the private property of the Tolman's, the portion that crosses some wetlands will be seasonal use only.

The proposal will be on the agenda for an upcoming Select Board meeting and Rob Peale has provided much information from DEP regarding the project.

Select Board visit to Millstream pathway: Ann Keilty reported on the site visit to Town property there. The Select Board expressed some concerns about the drop off from Old Kents Hill Road onto the path, but has not approved adding material to build the path up.

A student, Alexis Lambert, has expressed interest in working with the Conservation Commission on trail beautification. On September 21, 2015, DEP, Roland Cote, Bob Bittar, and others interested met regarding a complaint of improper shore land cutting on Mr. Bittar's property. Mr. Bittar is anxious to continue the trail, but Trails Committee will hold off involvement until DEP issues the proper permits.

Trails website: Ken Clark reported on interest in further promoting the trails beyond information available on the Town's website. The use of social media, especially Facebook, was described. The differences between a closed group Facebook page vs. a public page was discussed. The public page requires monitoring, as anyone can post comments to it. There was discussion on using the Town's website. Because it is a template, it is difficult to change and customize without expending more money and Town personnel resources. Ken Clark will talk with new Town Manager to see whether the Town website can be improved regarding the trails.

Other Items: Romaine Turyn has expressed an interest in re-joining the Trails Committee. Regretfully, Lydia Adelson has decided to resign as a Trails Committee member, but will continue as a volunteer. Those present expressed their thanks to Lydia for her service to the Town.

Gary Keilty reported on the mowing done by the new owner of the McDougald farmhouse, Ed Perry. He has been mowing a lot of the area around the McDougald Trail and will do so next year.

Nancy Buker reported that some damage has occurred to the metal McPhedran Trail sign. The sign was bent and it appears someone tried to bend it back into shape.

Gary Keilty asked those present to think of items for the upcoming 2016/2017 Budget. He also asked if Greg Durgin would consider acting as a liaison with him to the Ball field Committee.

There was discussion about the need for bathroom facilities in the Fairgrounds. The Port-A-Potty rented by the Recreation Board during baseball season was used a lot. Perhaps the Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission could help share the rental cost for one to be there once baseball has ended.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peterson, Secretary