

October 27, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting

Present: Lydia Adelson, Nancy Buker, Hank Laidlaw, Becky Walsh, Gary Keilty, Greg Durgin, Will Harris, Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Ken Clark, Rob Peale, Karen Peterson

Excused Absent: Ann Keilty

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting will be tabled until the next meeting as not yet prepared.

Upper Fairgrounds: Hank Laidlaw reported on the Maranacook Community Day efforts. A lot of material was moved and the muddiest part of the trail has new cover on it. The Conservation Commission expressed their satisfaction with the work, too. Jeannie Harris also reported that the Kents Hill girls' Soccer team worked hard during their School Day.

Greg Durgin offered to send Thank You notes to both schools.

The last of the "Greg Gill Piles" have been moved and used elsewhere.

New Member: Gary Keilty welcomed Becky Walsh to the Trails Committee.

Proposed Old Landfill trail: Gary Keilty expressed disappointment that the Select Board wanted to delay planning. The Select Board Chair cited a study done, claiming it described the danger to vehicles exiting onto North Road from the old transfer station entrance. However, the actual study could not be located at this time.

There was discussion on how best to develop a strategy to gain support. Some present stated a warning sign similar to the one at the Fairgrounds could be put up. Nancy Buker suggested developing a proposal similar to the recent Millstream explanation prepared for the Select Board by Jerry Bley.

Signage: There was discussion on putting more trail signs at the Community Library, Millstream and the Union Meeting House. At issue was whether signs are needed to designate the smaller pathways. There was consensus that the use of consistency in signage would make it more obvious the pathways are actually part of the Town's entire trails system.

Motion to have green poly-tone trails signs made for the Union Meeting House on Church Road and the Library made by Nancy Buker, seconded by Rob Peale. Approved.

Motion to hold off on having a trail sign created for the Millstream path until more plans for the area's whole development are in place made by Nancy Buker, seconded by Greg Durgin. Approved.

Mill Stream/Bittar Project: Greg Durgin reported on Jerry Bley's presentation to the Select Board, who described the phases of development and emphasized that all work would be done with private, not taxpayer, funds. Property owner Bob Bittar wants to establish a committee to see this through. The committee would include Mr. Bittar, Mr. Bley and others. Mr. Bittar has said he would host fundraisers at his restaurant and Gary Keilty asked Trails Committee members to consider being on the committee.

Trails on Face book update: Ken Clark will work with Maine Trail Finder to further promote Readfield's trails. Ken asked if there is one map available detailing all Town trails, Kennebec Land Trust properties and other recreational areas.

Gary reported Maranacook School staff said there are other unused and overgrown trails on their property and the Trails Committee can restore them if desired.

There was discussion on the dedicated fund account for the Trails Committee, established to receive donations. Its balance was unknown. There was also discussion on the funds expended so far this fiscal year. Motion to have a Trails Committee member obtain a monthly Trails accounting from the Town's Financial Officer for discussion during regular meetings made by Nancy Buker, seconded by Greg Durgin. Approved. Jeanne Harris volunteered to obtain the information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Peterson, Secretary