

EMTI Meeting Minutes  
1/10/2011

Present: Nona Estrin, Sue Rikken, Sue Chickering, Mary Stone, Rick Hopkins, Richard Brock, Stephan Syz, Greg Western, Anna Saxman

**TRAIL UPDATE FROM GREG WESTERN:** Greg gave a CD with pictures and details of the work that has been done on Mallory Brook to Mary Stone. Folks are welcome to check it out. They did not get a second grant from the American Hiking Society that they were hoping for, however, National Lifeis currently giving out money for projects. Greg asked if we would be willing to submit a proposal for approximately \$3K if possible. We think it is worth trying!

- **Greg will get information from Richard Brock for the National Life proposal. We will also check into the Carlton Smith \$. Sue will email Patrick O'Donnell to ask him to check into this.**

XVT is also part of Greg's jurisdiction and he described the progress being made on the Benton property and other details. He met with Fish and Wildlife in November and they would like there to be a parking spot so people can access the river for fishing. Mary recommended Jean Vissering to design the trail/parking configuration. Fundraising for the section along route 2 is still in progress. The engineer for the bridge says it will be "any day now" for the bridge design to be available. Hopefully the Act 250 process can start in February, meaning the actual construction of the bridge will likely be this fall.

**CLARK PROPERTY UPDATE:** VHCB has not done the appraisal even though the \$ is there, so until the appraisal is done, this property transaction cannot happen. Nona mentioned this, and we are not sure when this all will take place or why it is taking so long.

**STEPHAN SYZ:** met with us to discuss his involvement with the River Conservancy and some plans for land and water conservation that VLT was not interested in, so Kris Hammer passed it Stephan's way. The plan is for the River Conservancy to buy Alan Soule's land along the Kingsbury Branch to create a canoe access and a parking area. There have been some Eastern Pearl mussels found in the river and this might help to protect them from pollutants. Upon hearing this, Nona suggested that Stephan contact the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy. RC has until April 15th to raise the \$ to buy it. U32 volunteers and VYCC volunteers are lined up ready to work on the project. It will require very little work to actually create the landing, parking and access. They are in partnership with the Vermont Paddler's Club, VAST and Friends of the Winooski and have currently raised \$16K of the \$21K needed to purchase the land. Their plan is to "gift" the land to the town of East Montpelier, but they will continue to be the stewards and hold the easement. This means the town would have to pay the taxes which are currently about \$133.00/year once it is gifted. Stephan came to our committee looking for donations. We directed him to both the East Montpelier Conservation Fund Advisory Committee and the Recreation Committee.

- **Patrick O'Donnell can check with the Carlton Smith groups to see if there is any funding that could come from that end or whether they have received requests from the other two factions.**

**ANNA SAXMAN:** was voted by unanimous vote to be a member of the GMTI committee. Richard Brock made the motion and Sue Rikken seconded the motion.

**11/08/2011 MINUTES APPROVED:** Mary moved and Richard seconded the approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved. A question was raised as to whether Esther's Rock had been moved. Mary and Nona had been out and marked with some flags a spot they thought looked to be an ideal spot, but it

appears that this will have to take place once the ground thaws again so that an indentation can be made in the ground to make a place for the rock to sit.

- **Rick Hopkins said he would speak to Austin about this when the ground is thawed and dried out.**

**RECOGNITION OF GREG WESTERN and ZYLA NUITE'S WORK:** IT was suggested that an National Trail Day, which appears to be June 4th this year, we give Greg and Zyla a certificate or create a plaque that can be put up in his honor, or possibly also a Press Release.

- **Sue will look into the plaque idea, though it has to be big enough to be bolted to a tree or rock so this may be expensive. Sherry Winnie from Forest and Parks had been reminding us of how much work he has put into the Mallory Brook Trail, so the plaque would be somewhere on this trail.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Let it suffice to say that we had a Treasurer's report. 😊

- **Nona will get forms for Mary Stone and Richard Brock will arrange for Mary to also have signature authority on the account.**

**NEXT MEETING:** will be at Richard Brock's house at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 14th