

EMTI
Meeting Minutes – 3/13/2017

Present: Nona Estrin, Jennifer Boyer, Mary Stone, Sue Chickering, Richard Brock, Madeleine Mongan

Minutes: from 2-17-2017 approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report: We are holding steady, saving our money for our major bridge repair

Town Meeting Report: All three of the items related to trails and conservation passed: the Cross Vermont Trail request (to assist with the new bridge across the Winooski), the Conservation fund Advisory Committee requests, both for \$7500, and our EMTI request for \$4000.

Parking on Center road: Mary met with Carol Johnson to discuss parking to make sure people would be parked far enough away so that peoples' dogs will not come onto her land and bother them. Down near the drainage looks like a place that is ideal and she would be grateful if we can put the lot there. Mary will check with the landowner to make sure that this natural pull off is not a farm road that a parking area will interfere with.

Sparrow Farm Trail Boardwalk: Josh Ryan took a look at this. The understructure is solid but the gaps are so big between the boards that it is impassable for young people and dogs and it is a liability even for runners and walkers. The gaps are between 1.5" and 3". Not acceptable. MAMBA had so many volunteers that I think the people in charge felt like it was kind of a runaway train and it was underway and too hard to stop. We discussed that it needs to be remedied ASAP. Mary will share Josh's recommendations with Dan, Chuck and Rick. One of his ideas was to pull every other board and try to fit the right size boards in place. **We will have to develop very clear standards and procedures for trail improvement/management in the future so that this never happens again.** In this case, boards must be laid no more than .5" apart. Mary will make sure that it is clearly their responsibility to take care of this urgently. **She will set out warning signs for Charles and Nona to pick up and put up at both ends of the boardwalk. If they can't do that this weekend, they can contact Sue who will do it.**

Trail sign update: Jennifer has been attempting to create the graphics for these signs, but Alex's rendition is superior to anything she can come up with. Mary suggested that Jennifer ask Alex if she would be willing to do these graphics for us, either voluntarily or for reimbursement if needed. If she wants reimbursement then She will find out what Alex would charge to see if it is in our price range.

Discussion also ensued about the trail connection with U32 trails. Nona and Madeleine **will work together to ask the appropriate people to see about what kind of signage they would like us to have** and we will have to make sure that people are aware of the NO DOGS policy at U32, etc.

Town Budget question: We were hoping to be a line item for the annual town meeting agenda, but Bruce Johnson said that as long as we are a Non-Profit entity, he said this would not be an option. He is hopeful that the Select board will at some point in the future create a position to coordinate related committees who are all invested in conservation and trail management and growth. He said that he would alert us to any grants that come his way that are for Non-profits.

Mallory Brook Bridge: Josh has met with Chris Pratt and it took three weeks to figure out what this is going to look like. After almost reaching a final proposal, Chris decided that it would be nice to have an arched bridge over the brook which sent them back to the drawing board. They (Josh and Chris) will not get to this until the late summer or early fall, but it is worrisome because it is possible that it will be unsafe for crossing and that a warning will need to be placed. Josh is working on the current proposal and estimate. Mary has the working description of these ideas at the moment.

Board member discussion: We currently have 10 people on the board: Mary, Sue, Nona, Rick, Richard, Jennifer, David W, Dave B, Madeleine, Josh R. Discussion regarding potential new members ensued and we suggested that if someone is interested in joining the board, they come to meetings for several (6 or so) meetings to determine if they are committed and it is a good match all around. Next meeting we can determine specifically what roles we need to fill to be a well functioning board. We currently have two young people who would like to join the board; Kim Kendall and a friend of Chris Stone's, and possibly Susan Witham is interested.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 16th 7:00 PM