

East Montpelier Trails Committee Meeting

August 8th, 2018

Present: David Webb, Maddy Mongan, Mary Stone, Jennifer Boyer, Richard Brock, Dave Burley, Josh Ryan, Sue Chickering

Minutes: approved 5/24/18 minutes unanimously

Treasurer's report: We have spent roughly \$800 on various materials and services. Our balance on July 31st was 11, 263. We have not received \$4000 from the town that we are due.

Maddy's report(s):

- Ten-year Easement document for the Bobolink Trail: Once we have a clear GPS trail description (no survey necessary), we will consult for attorney recommendations. Richard Brock will take the lead on this. Greg Western estimated that it would cost \$2K for a lawyer to draft this document – and he urged us NOT to go with a Public defendant as it would go to the “bottom of the pile” for approval. Maddy and Richard offered to pursue this issue and they recommended that Nona be asked to help.
- Liability Insurance: There are three kinds of insurance, Liability, Director's and officers and Volunteer Accident coverage. We can join (for an annual fee of \$250) the “Land Trust Alliance” and if we do this we have to adopt their standards to become a member. The benefit is that this would make us eligible for liability insurance through “Conserve a Nation Alliant” insurance company and the cost of this insurance would range from \$500- \$1000/annually, bringing the total cost to between \$750 - \$1200. As a group I sensed that we would not likely move in this direction.
- Vermont Trail System: If we get certified by the Agency of Natural Resources and become part of this system, we would receive increased protection at NO cost. Greg Western recommended that we try to join forces with Calais and Montpelier and join as one group. Mary and Jennifer will look into this further and David W and Josh will speak with the folks they know at the ANR for more details about these “standards”. These folks are: Becca Washburn, Jessica Savage and Sherry Winnie.
- Thank you, Maddy, for your continuous good work on our behalf!

Sparrow Farm update:

Email from Rick Hopkins read by Mary:

- * new bridge installed on outer sparrow farm trail. looking to install 1, 2 or 3 more new bridges out there this fall.
- * tall grass mowed on outer sparrow farm trail, trail from County Rd to Esther's rock, behind Templeton Rd fire station and eastern end of Ormsbee trail.
- * mamba did some drainage repair on 2 pitches of lower sparrow farm trail

No one has had a chance to talk with Carl Etnier regarding if he is interested in felling the Black Locust trees for us to use. Mary will contact him again about this. If he IS interested then Tick

Sherwood-Morse has a mill so we could mill it on site perhaps and ask Carl if he would be willing to store it and if not, maybe we can ask some of the Co-Housing folks, like Andy and Carolyn Shapiro (close by) if they would have room to store it. Carl has agreed to let us use pressure treated wood on this trail.

Trailhead Signs:

Jennifer plans to GPS the trails from Haggett to County Road, Templeton to Center Road and Haggett to Templeton Road. She will ask Nona for a clearer description of the Templeton – Center section. There are NO Bikes on this section but horses are allowed when the trails are dry. We agreed that signs for the trails in both directions could be on one trail at the Town garage. There should also be some mention of the Town Forest Trail system on our sign on Haggett Road. Leon Harris has been caretaking these trails and would be a good contact person for more information about this area. Josh and Dave plan to install all six (if possible) sign structures (sometime before the end of September) at: Center Road (2) the Town Garage, Haggett Road, Dodge Road and Sparrow Farm Road! Yay and thank you in advance!

Bobolink trail Update:

Josh said that it is a “wet mess” for much of this area where we are wanting this trail to go, requiring at least 275’ of boardwalk and a 25-30’ bridge. There are many wet areas so Josh plans to walk again with Bruce to see if they can nail down the best route and once this is figured out, we will need to meet with Chris about the section that will go over his property as well. Bruce is fine with pressure treated wood on any of the structures that are on his property. One option would also just be to make the trail go along the edge of his pasture (since he already mows this) and see how many people actually use the trail before going to the trouble of building lots of planks over the wet areas. As far as cost, Josh envisions a volunteer work crew, so the only costs would likely be the materials.

Update on the Mallory Brook bridge from Chris Pratt (read by Mary at our meeting)

“The one support span on the bridge is complete and we have cut the next five logs for the second supporting span. I have two logs loaded on the trailer and ready to go down to the bridge. Our goal for July is to get the next span completed by the end of the month. As always looking for volunteers. Paul Bishop and I are doing most of the work right now and June was a month that saw very little progress due to our other obligations.” Chris Pratt

Mary plans to go check things out both in terms of the bridge progress and the work that Greg Western has been doing on the lower sections of the trail.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for September 5th @ 7:00 PM @ Richard Brock’s house.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.**