

East Montpelier Trail Committee Meeting
01/09/2020

Present: Sue Chickering, Nona Estrin, Loring Starr, Josh Ryan, Mary Stone, Richard Brock, Rick Hopkins

Minutes:

From November, 2019 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report:

We haven't spent much money so far and we have \$14,000 in our endowment trail acquisition fund, and \$18,400 in the checking account.

Ormsbee Trail/Fairmont field extension issue : t

The bench was gone and logging was well underway when EMTI members went out to this area together. Fairmont has clear cut the land adjacent to the field (their land) to extend the corn field into the woods. It is discouraging that there seems to be a lack of awareness of how this is impacting our trails and they will have to be rerouted once it is clear that they have completed their cutting. Mary will ask Richard if he can walk the land together with Loring as soon as they can, and remind him about the trail easement and to remind him to cut a hemlock tree the correct length to replace the bench that was destroyed. And leave these lengths in the general vicinity of where the bench was

Bobolink Trail:

Update from Josh – 80% of the layout is already there, but the 20% that is wet is still up in the air. Bruce and Josh are going to meet to figure out this remaining route and they are considering possibly creating a summertime and a wintertime route. There is a place that would need a 25 ' bridge and he has a ton of lumber that could be used to build this and Mary knows someone who is willing to donate hemlock for this project as well. Chris Pratt is on board with this trail connecting to his land. Aside from a massive tree stand where it would have been ideal to put the trail, they will look for something that doesn't go directly under this. Mary reminded Josh that we have funds to pay a work crew for this project. The goal would be that the trail would be done by fall before the snow flies. If a boardwalk is involved then they would need some EMTI funds to pay Josh's crew. His estimate would be 5, 000 – 7,000 for a bridge if he wasn't choosing to donate his time, etc. Greg could be involved with this as well. It probably won't be ready for National Trails day and Josh is committed in New Hampshire already on that day.

Trail work ahead:

The posts should be repainted as a project for NTD for volunteers as they are muddy and grungy. On Mallory brook, Chris Pratt is having trouble moving the logs out of the way. The lumber needs to be removed and Josh has offered to come in with his crew and take care of this if we committed some money to pay them. Josh would be willing to go down with Chris and let him know his offer to do this during the week. Josh and two others would probably cost \$1200 for three of them to clean it up. Josh is willing to contact Chris and do this sometime this winter. We talked about parking areas and Mary will ask the town if they will plow the parking area on Cherry Tree Hill, since Kevin Hudson offered (for pay) when someone was stuck there. Nona will also call Chris Pratt to see if he does anything at this end of the trail. She will also ask who generally plows the trailheads where it is needed and whether they are willing to take this on. With regard to mowing, we will try to hire the man who works for the town to do the sections off County Road and Center Road.

Sparrow Farm trail north:

Mary will contact Janet Powers (the new owner) to make sure that we do have the deed. Lauren Padilla will take the lead on this initiative once this is clarified.

Mary will email the Town report to Bruce Johnson by tomorrow for the Annual Report.

February 17th is the date for the meeting with the Town regarding whether we will become a "Town" committee so that we would automatically have town insurance, etc.

Next meeting is February 13th at Richard Brock's house at 7:00 PM.