

East Montpelier trails committee meeting minutes
7/18/2017

Present:

Nona Estrin, Mary Stone, Jennifer Boyer, Madeleine Mongan, Josh Ryan, Sue Chickering, Rick Hopkins

Minutes approved unanimously

No treasurer's report

Mallory Brook update:

Madeleine brought the easement and we realized it was initially developed in 2004 and should have been updated every 10 years. It was developed between EMTI and Trust for Public lands. It seems that now the easement is held by VLT and VHCB. Ultimately EMTI is the responsible party for updating this at some point soon. Charles noticed that Paul Cate and Chris P had cut down 2-3 very old cedars right along the trail which unfortunately is not supposed to happen in this close proximity to the trail. Apparently there is work going on but we are not sure of what exactly is going on and/or who is doing what. Charles decided not to stay involved in this project anymore. And it seems that Paul Cate has left the site. We are still waiting for a written plan from Chris regarding the plan for the new bridge. We need to get in touch with Greg Western to determine if there is an actual plan and if he is working on this project with Chris. Since we are not aware of what is currently happening we need to find out as soon as possible. We are concerned about safety, liability, insurance, etc. There are many concerns. Josh will develop some talking points by tomorrow, then we will have a subcommittee meet with Greg to gather as much information as soon as we can. It seems likely that Greg has some kind of insurance. It was also brought up by Rick H that we might want to talk directly with Chris about these concerns as early as tomorrow, to make sure he understands that we are worried about this whole situation. Madeleine is willing to go talk with Chris and Rick is willing to accompany her. We are in agreement that the safety of the bridge needs to be certified by an outside entity, ideally a civil engineer or someone with this level of experience. Does Greg have this expertise? Action plan: Josh and Mary will meet with Greg as soon as he is available. Madeleine! Sue and Rick will meet with Chris as soon as they can. Sue join either group as well. We will communicate by email once we have more information.

Signage: Greg will help with the maps, Jennifer will create the parking signs once a site visit happens to determine what language, information and memorial statements are included on these signs for Ormsbee's (memorial statement on Center road only), then the Clark trail. Mary, Nona and Jennifer will go out and determine what the sign should look like. We also need to order more paw print trail signs. Mary will do this.

Sparrow farm trail: a lot of attention is being paid to the boardwalk. There is about 1/2 mile that has several muddy areas along the fence line once you come out of the woods that have been continually wet this year. A 40" wide boardwalk should be built to accommodate a mower. Next summer MAMBA will take charge of this and Rick will give us an estimate of what we need to contribute.

Ormsbee's: Josh volunteered to weed whack in from center road to the woods - grass growing up a bit now. There are a couple more signs needed: Ormsbee trail, and specifically the signs that Rick makes to distinguish where the loop turns off.

Clark trail: Greg has been too busy to work on this trail as far as making it bike friendly. Mark Chaplin is worried about going over the bridge on his snow machine without some low railings on either side. Josh will get in touch with Mark to discuss this. It may be that U32 grounds crew would be available to help as well.

Dodge road: all the benches are in. Thank you, Rick and Josh!

Next signpost due July 31st: Mary suggested that we take some pictures of the benches and make a little game out of it. We can post the pictures and see who can identify where they are.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12th 7:00 pm (or sooner given the situation at Mallory Brook)