

**East Montpelier Trails Committee Meeting**  
**April 23, 2019**

**Present:** Richard Brock, Rick Hopkins, Sue Chickering, Nona Estrin, Charles Johnson, Maddy Mongan, Jennifer Boyer

**Minutes** from 2-19 were approved unanimously.

**Conservation Fund Advisory Committee discussion:** Charles came to speak with us about some developments.

- The committee is considering becoming a Conservation Commission. Lots of different groups are currently doing different conservation related activities without coordination of these efforts.
- Forming a commission would be a way to organize these efforts in a more efficient way. Bruce Johnson would love to have one entity regarding these kinds of issues as he is sometimes confused about which committee to approach now.
- The vision is that the other committees would stay as they are but the commission would facilitate communication between the committees.
- It would be helpful for Charles for us to organize our committee's pros and cons about this idea. Concerns were expressed about adding a layer of oversight to our decision making process.
- The town regularly gets offers of people wanting to donate their property to the town. A commission would be able to oversee this process.
- It was also suggested that it would be crucial for the Conservation Fund committee to determine their specific goals for the formation of this entity.

**National Trails Day June 1st:**

- **MAMBA** is willing to prep for a Sparrow Farm Trail work day for a crew of VHCB people who have offered to come on June 4<sup>th</sup> and will be available on this day for work on one bridge
- There are three bridges overall and the VHCB crew will work on all three on June 4th

**Mallory Brook Update:**

- Chris has gotten the 5 logs for the upstream support span down to the site, the next step is to put them altogether.

- He ran a stress test over a jointed area of the bridge of 800 pounds and it didn't fail, but this is not a definitive assurance for the committee. We will still need to ask a third party for their take on this.
- He will also be adding tension cables, treads, and railings which will strengthen it further.
- VHCB volunteers could also be available to help with bridge features such as treads if the bridge is ready for this kind of help.

**Town Governance of the EMTI committee:**

- We discussed this idea as a group and the general feeling was that it would make sense for us to do this, even with some reservations about the idea
- We agreed to put this on the next meeting's agenda for a final vote.

**Bobolink Trail Easement discussion:**

- After review of the Trail Easement that was drafted with modifications, Richard will send the revised copy to Bruce Howlett and Carol Dickson for their input.
- Possibly we will be able to make a final decision about this at our next meeting.

**Signage:**

- Haggett, Templeton, Center and Dodge road signs are finished and ready to be printed, laminated and mounted.
- We could see if the town could make us a sign to put up on the Sparrow Farm trail at the town border, like the road signs saying: EAST MONTPELIER/MONTPELIER
- We still need a PARKING sign on Powder Horn Glen as it is confusing, especially in the winter time of where to park. Jennifer will scope this out.

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 PM (unless Josh can come in which case we will move the start time to 6:30 PM)**