

EMTI Minutes 7-12-05

Present: Sandy, Nona, Jamie, Mary, Eric at 8:30

Fitch property: Mary reported that her last communication with Martha indicated she and her siblings really wish to sell the 11 acres as a whole and are not interested in selling us a smaller parcel. Raising money to purchase the whole parcel would be difficult since it is not a “glamorous” parcel in terms of conservation. It is very hard to raise money or to get people to donate land for Trailhead parking. In addition, grant money is available for trailhead development, but funding sources generally require that the land already be held.

Mary will call Marlene at the town office to explore the options and see how far the town is willing to go in order to secure a safe parking site for trail users. Possibilities for purchasing the whole piece include: town contributes to the purchase along with EMTI, town abates taxes, town holds the whole piece.

Also, Sandy heard that there is a potential buyer and will let us know if he hears anything. As I write these notes I think that it may be worth asking Martha to keep us posted about the land. We should make contact asap with the buyer to see if he/she will work with us.

Pratt: Nona spent 6 hours on the Pratt property with a Maine archeologist (?) looking for sites that may have evidence of paleolithic hunters. We can breath a sigh of relief that he did not find any in the areas that will be disturbed by the trail. He was happy that we are keeping the trail above the riverbank area (thanks to Nona).

Aaron Codling (trail manager) and the YCC will look at the bridge site on Thurs July 9.

Route 14 trailhead: Sandy would like permission to put up Jersey barriers as a temporary measure to prevent dumping over the bank at the parking area. He will contact Mike Garand to move the ones that were used on Dodge rd. from the town garage. We will replace them with a more permanent landscape plan when the CVT trail reaches the crossing.

Trail Maintenance: Discussion on the need for fixing the trail boxes, replacing paw signs, and printing new brochures. I think the decision was made to ask Sylvia to make more Xerox copies at the town office until the Pratt trails are completed and plotted in to our map. Then we will have to redesign the brochure to fit a fold out with larger scale map and less prose... We didn't go so far as setting up a work day or plan for the boxes and signage. Perhaps we can make this a priority for the fall. The trails are very easy to follow right now, but will be covered when the leaves fall.

Sandy suggested printing up some plastic signs with arrows that we can write directions on for road crossing instructions (esp. Center and Templeton).

CVT: Eric reported that he is talking with Lylehaven Farms and Mark McEathren (sp?) of VLT about applying for an enhancements grant for the power dam section of the Winooski. He'd like to use the funds for a design plans for the bridge and is putting out an RFP. He's thinking that it may not be a suspension bridge as originally planned because they scare bicyclists-esp. kids. Nona will draft a letter in support of the project and email it to Jamie to sign for the EMTI.

Eric will also talk to John Warshaw about the idea to widen the railbed/road in the sections that present expensive engineering problems due to bedrock and or steep slope. This widened road would allow for shared use of the road for trail users and trucks perhaps with a fence or guard rail divider.

I'm sorry that we did not address Rick's questions for the board concerning brush hog on Salmi and open ended maintenance for Sparrow Farm. Please read the separate message I will forward along to you all.

NEXT MEETING: Tues September 20, 2005