

EMTI Minutes 11-29-05

Present: Nona, Carroll, Rick, Mary (minutes), Chip Stone (perspective new board member), Eric at 8:30

Minutes of 9-20-05 read and accepted with correction for spelling of MAMBA (Montpelier Area Mtn Bike Assoc)

Treasurers Report postponed to next meeting as Kevin was not able to make it tonight.

Chip Stone, co-owner of Morse Farm Ski Touring Ctr and E Montpelier resident returned after 20 year hiatus, joined us tonight and is interested in being involved in EMTI projects, but not as official board member at this time. Welcome Chip.

Mallory Brook: Nona reported that the bridge planking is complete thanks to Charles Johnson and helpers. The bridge is officially closed for the winter due to the fact the railing is not on yet. Charles is willing to help on the railing work, but we someone to organize the work for this spring.

Another pending project is the plan for traversing the gullies along the trail south of the bridge. This again must be negotiated with Chris Pratt and will hinge on the decision whether to allow bikes on this section of trail. Solutions include creating steps on gully slopes or plank bridges which the bikes would require.

Carroll and Chip volunteered to work with Chris Pratt on these projects.

Nona is looking for help finding a route for the trail to continue south of the Minister Brook road and then on to the Clark Property, pending the successful completion of the Clark conservation effort. Vermont Land Trust is working with VHCB on funding. Once the funds are approved, **Rick will help Nona work with the landowners between the Pratt and Clark properties.**

Other work includes putting up trail signs and a new map once the trail work is done, hopefully next summer!

Baird Property (Sparrow Farm Trail): Nona has met with town forester Paul Cate and walked the 50 acre "Baird" property currently held by the Vermont Land Trust. VLT would like to transfer ownership of the piece to the town of East Montpelier, the alternative being to sell the property. Paul will make a recommendation to the town and the select board can either approve it independently or put it on the agenda for a vote at town meeting. Nona will ask VLT for a copy of the deed and for a current tax statement. **Rick will contact Paul about this.**

Fitch: no news except a reminder for Mary to stay in touch with Martha Fitch.

CVT: Eric is applying for a major VHCB grant for work on the trail from the Montpelier line along the U32 and Winooski One properties, including the bridge across the Winooski. He would like to attend a U32 board meeting in Dec to reaffirm their approval for a trail easement and particularly for CVT to take the lead in trail work. U32 gave approval to EMTI in 2002 for a trail easement. **Mary will set this up and attend with Eric.** (post script: they will attend the Dec 14 meeting). There was some discussion and disagreement on the plans for how the trail will follow and cross the rail bed.

Fish and Wildlife was pleased with the work already done on the section east of the river and so gave approval for the trail to be located closer to the river than previously agreed which is excellent.

Nona is writing an update for the signpost and will include a request for new board members.

Next Meeting: Tues Jan 17 at Mary's house