

EMTI Minutes 2-7-06

Present: Nona, Sandy, Carroll, Kevin, Rick, Mary (minutes)

Minutes of 11/29/05 reviewed, Sandy moved to approve, Carroll second, unanimous approval

Treasurer's report: Kevin presented fund balance report (attached) with current balance of \$12,053 with approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000 outstanding from the Forests and Parks grant. **Nona and Kevin will make sure the paperwork goes out to F and P promptly.**

Sparrow Farm Update: E Montpelier select board agreed to take the 47 acres (Baird Property) as town forest on the recommendations of town forester Paul Cate and the Conservation Committee. The Select people formed a committee to recommend how to use and manage the property: forester Paul Cate, Naturalist Charles Johnson, Nona Estrin from EMTI, and someone to represent educational opportunities.

Next summer work: repair trail boxes, new maps, brochures, put up new trail signs
Mallory bridge rails, gully remediation, signs, scout trail from Minister Rd to the south

Old Heller property issues: We received a report that the new owner of the Heller property put a sign up on trail warning walkers to leash their dogs to protect them from poison put out for coyotes. An adjoining property owner and trail user notified the fish and game warden, who is looking into the legality of using chocolate to kill coyotes. Much discussion led to the unanimous decision to let the game warden take care of any legal issues and at some future date let the landowner know that we would appreciate signage to inform users of danger to pets.

Gullyjumper fundraising: Sandy says that the gullyjumpers will have to raise \$20,000 (?) to purchase the groomer which has been previously leased from VAST. He asked whether we thought it feasible to run a raffle aimed at the skiers in town. **Mary said she would speak to Morse Farm about donating a pass and Nona will ask Andrew Brewer to donate a gift certificate.**

*Nona moved that EMTI contribute \$100 to \$200 to get the fund started. Carroll second. Unanimous approval.

Eric Scharnberg called with the following information on CVT progress:

CVT won a \$56,000 Enhancement Grant (Forests and Parks?) which will provide funds for:

Planning and permitting for the Winooski River bridge using the existing abutments, and the 1 mile stretch of trail from the Montpelier/East Montpelier town line to the bridge. This section of trail crosses properties held by GMP, Winooski One Hydro, and U32 school.

Funding for a project manager to oversee the above work. Greg Western of the Green Mtn Club has been hired for this position.

Eric is now applying for a HCB grant to provide funds for the legal fees and staffing to handle easement procurement. This application also includes funds to establish a permanent endowment fund which would receive a portion of future grants to hold them for the purpose of easement procurement.

He also is working on an application in for Recreation Trails Grant to hire the YCC to continue work on the Rt 2 "Riverwalk" section of the trail east of the bridge, up to the section completed by YCC last summer.

Eric also noted that the Montpelier City Council is meeting Feb 8 to discuss the continuation of the bike path from the Hunger Mtn Coop to the city line at Gallison Hill Rd.

Next meeting: Tues April 4, Mary's house