

EMTI Minutes 7-16-07

Present: Sandy, Sue, Jamie, Joe, Rick Brock, Mary (minutes)

Reading of the minutes from 5-21-07 triggered much discussion over new signage for the Dodge Road trail head as well as the directional signs on stakes placed to guide trail users through open fields where it is hard to see the path. The decision was made to have a sign made reading "Trail Head Parking", with "East Montpelier Trails" in smaller print underneath, in blue print over white background. Mary will price out signs on plastic vs. metal and also small diamond shaped signs with arrows which will be used on the Fairmont fields on the Dodge Rd trail as well as around the new cornfield on the Templeton Rd trail. Sandy suggested we could save some money by buying black on orange signs from VAST. We'd prefer to keep the EMT look of blue on white, but must price them out before making the order. **Mary will work with Joe on this.**

Sue moved that we accept the minutes as written, Sandy seconded and all approved.

New board member: Sue and Nona invited Rick Brock of East Montpelier to join the trail board. Rick kindly agreed and surprised us all by walking to the meeting from his home on Cutler Heights! Mary moved that we accept Rick as a new board member, Sue seconded, with a unanimous yes vote. We offer you a hearty welcome, Rick!

Treasurers Report: Jamie shared the news that Kim is not in a position to be able to take back the job of treasurer at this time. Much as she would like to stay involved, she realized she does not have the time to give it. **Rick Brock volunteered to take over as acting treasurer until we schedule an election of officers.**

Maintenance update-Sue: lots of work got done on National trail day in June. Mamba put in the lion's share of work with help from some folks from E Montpelier to repair/rebuild the wet stretch of trail on the upper Sparrow Farm trail. Several volunteers tackled the brambles and fallen trees on the Center Road trails going east and west from the road. Three map boxes still need repair: the Templeton Rd box needs a new hinge, the **Sparrow Trail needs a new latch (Jamie will do this)**, and the box for Center eastward was last seen still propped up against a tree... Charles Johnson and Mark Catlin volunteered to work on the boxes, but have been busy with other obligations. Is there a taker for these jobs?

The YCC worked on the Sparrow Farm trail (on a grant received by Goeff Beyer, on very short notice-a number of hours!) making new water bars on the steep section near the lower end of the trail. Since the work was done we have heard from MAMBA that water bars are bad for bikes. The best solution for them would be to re-do them according to guidelines appropriate for bikes. The sentiment of the board right now is to leave them as they are until all have had a chance to inspect the section. Keep in mind that the trail is for multiple use (we do not want this to be dangerous for bikers, but this may keep their speed down in the steep section) and it is difficult to focus volunteer time when we have many trail projects underway. Mary will talk to Rick H to get his view on the problem.

Sparrow cont'd: The grass growth on the trail head section and along the field fence line continues to be a problem. The sickle bar is at Les Birnbaum's house and the string trimmer is at Jamie's. **Sandy will pick up the trimmer and see what he can do to get it running.**

Haggett Rd trail: Thick growth of young spruce trees are, or soon will be blocking the trail. This would be a target area for a couple hours of trail work lopping the larger saplings and yanking up the smaller ones. Sue will plan a fall work morning.

Sue reports that she was the only volunteer to show up at the Mallory Brook work day with Greg Western in June. Sat July 21 is date #2 and Mary and Rick B are planning to attend and try to bring friends/family along. **Sue will send out another email to the work list.**

Green Mtn Club: Ken Hertz notified Mary that he is looking for a board member to recommend a trail and attend a walk with his group this Sunday, July 22. **Mary will take this on, probably go to the Sparrow farm trail.**

New Maps: Kris Hammer now has the GIS data collected by Stone Environmental several years ago and is planning to get it together with new data to produce new maps for us. **Jamie will communicate with him.**

Esther Salmi Trail/Fairmont Farms property: I have included an email update from Rick H concerning the new cornfield near the Town Forest which has presented a passage problem for our trail. Also included in the email is reference to the former Fitch property, now Porter, where we hope to someday have a trail head parking area and future continuation of the EM trail network to the west.

From Rick:

Nona & I met with Richard Hall yesterday (7/10) out at Esther's rock to inspect the new corn field and discuss the need for delineating a new trail.

Richard agreed that we could for this summer and as a temporary basis send the trail along the outside edge of the new corn. I planted some grade stakes with trail markers the other week. I need to plant a few more stakes to make it more apparent esp as the corn gains height. Unless trail users are able to pound down the plants and keep them from growing up, I suspect someone might have to take a sickle bar/sythe to the first row or two of corn plants at some point.

Importantly, Richard also agreed that we can spend some time out there this summer and fall along the northern edge and southern edge of the field - but in the nearby woods - and flag where a new trail could be located for the longer term. He seemed OK with the trail crossing his new corn land right about where the old field and the new field join together (there is visible ledge in this area that runs north/south).

I will put the word out to MAMBA folks about reconnoitering those areas with an eye towards a new trail layout. I don't believe we need to worry about this new trail accommodating snow machines as snow machines will be able to follow pretty much where they used to go.

FYI - I also spoke with Robby Porter, the owner of the 11 acre piece of land formerly owned by Todd & Martha Fitch. Robby now has a BIG for sale sign hanging up. I explained to him EMTI's interest with a portion of the parcel along the stone fence for trail purposes. He did not know of EMTI's interest there for that potential. He asked me about easement value. Nona was going to speak with Paul Hannah to try and get a range of figures, perhaps ones that were associated with easements here in town. I also mentioned to RP the option of subdividing. He was not at all interested in that.

I will speak with Robby again as Nona told me that EMTI could offer upwards of \$8K to \$10K for an easement (depending on appraisal).

I do not know if he is ready or willing to jump on this trail thing but I know he is eager to sell the land. Because he said so, I also know he is a user of the trails and he supports the notion of a trail around the town.

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept 17, 2007 7 pm at Mary's house-third Monday of the all numbered months