

East Montpelier Trails Committee Minutes

2/8/2010

Present: Mary Stone, Richard Brock, Sue Chickering, Patrick O'Donnell, Sue Rigger, David Webb (guest)
Nona Estrin, Jamie Shanley, Rick Hopkins, Clare Rock (guest)

Trailfinder discussion: concern was raised about the amount of work involved in pursuing this opportunity, contacting landowners, etc, but Nona explained that this was unnecessary due to paperwork already in place during the acquisition of easements. Landowners would not be allowed to say no to this request. Also, the trails are already posted on the web via facebook and the Signpost website.

Clare Rock clarified that with land parcels that have easements already, letters would not be sent to landowners requesting permission. Also, the drafted letter she presented could be modified to suit our needs. Questions were raised about GPS and whether, once gathered this data would be transferrable or not. Local Motion and Trailfinder currently are working in Chittenden, Addison and Grand Isle counties, starting the process in Washington County and central Vermont. Their goal is to have some of the central Vermont trails listed on National Trails Day, in June, 2010. This information would eventually interface with google earth as well. Rick H. wondered if Local Motion would help provide trail maintenance, but I did not hear a definitive answer to this question, so I assume this would not be the case. A compromise might be to just have a link to the information already posted on our Signpost site, which would give people access to the map of the trails in PDF format. Clare suggested that some links to the town office(s) would be a good idea, as well as a contact person if available. The Cewntral Vermont Regional Planning commission is hoping to create a regional trail map, but EMTI does not want to be the first one in this area to list our trails. Eric Scharnberg is already doing the gps work for Hubbard Park in Montpelier. Other sites are the Cross Vermont Trail, the central Vermont bike path and the Putnam trail on the Worcester - Hunger mountain range, as well as Little River, the Long trail and the Catamount Trail.

If we were to list our trails on Trailfinder, we would have the access to change and update any data as needed. This access would be password protected. Kris Hammer already has the GPS information on the East Montpelier trails, including Mallory Brook, so this might not take much effort to gather. Technically we may have this data available already.

We decided to talk further about this opportunity at our next meeting on April 12th at Nona's house, since we don't want to be the first ones listed and we need to think more about the pros and cons of participating.

Richard Brock will make some calls to Geoff Beyer and Greg Western to find out how much work might potentially be involved for a "point person" if we were to commit to this opportunity. AT our next meeting we can decide how much information we want to share with them, and if we want to get involved at all.

Treasurer's Report: Greg Western and Lila are going to extend their involvement and work longer, starting again in the spring. Mallory Brook trail needs some repair. Mary Stone will now be a member of the American Hiking Society as this gives us some privileges and supports Greg's work. Rick H wondered if we should invest some of our money in a higher yield plan, if this was possible. Rick B will look into this.

Update on Clark property: Nona believes this is moving along gradually. The VHCB and Forest Legacy fund seem to both be committed to this project. The Conservation Fund committee has also already designated funding for this project. Carl Pagel has taken over Mark McEathron's job at VLT and will be the contact person regarding progress on this as well. This property is key to connecting our trails with the Cross Vermont Trail.

Sparrow Farm Trail update: Mary Stone sent a Thank You letter to Bryant Watson (VAST) commending Matt Tetreault's job on the restoration of the damaged trail. They will meet again this spring to check it out. A big thanks to Mary for her perseverance in seeing this through.

Facebook: our facebook site has 60 fans. Photos of the trails are welcome and can be sent to Patrick to upload on the site. People can also share stories and/or experiences or historical facts about the trails. These would be welcome additions.

Esther Salmi Rock needs to be moved. Rick H will pick a site and contact Richard Hall to see if he thinks this can be moved without damaging it. Otherwise other ways of moving the rock will be explored.

Other business: Wrightsville Beach is also looking for a board member from East Montpelier. This board meets 4-5 times per year, not a big time commitment.

Next Meeting: April 12th at Nona's house at 7:00 pm.