

East Montpelier Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, Sept 13th, 2010

Present: Rick Hopkins, Nona Estrin, Mary Stone, Sue Chickering

- **Minutes from June 22nd approved as is.**
- **Treasurer's report** - Checks will be written to: 1) MAMBA for the gravel used to fix Sparrow trail for \$150.00. 2) Bruce Chapell for the fencing along the trail for \$765.00*. Also, \$15,000 of the EMTI fund still needs to be moved into a higher interest earning CD.
- **Mallory Brook Update:** Greg Western worked for two weeks with some international volunteers on the trail making lots of headway
- **Sparrow Farm update:** Mary and Nona spoke with people from VAST to reach an agreement, and, though nothing was signed, (after very tactful and thoughtful discussion) they reached an agreement that VAST will pay up to \$1000 for further trail repair. They also agreed that **nothing will be done in the future without a plan in place to determine how things will happen.** Geoff Beyer did a good bit of work on the trail when it was wet in July and Rick, Brad Watson and Chuck Eldred of MAMBA worked on it more recently when it was very dry. A big thanks to all those who worked so hard!! Sparrow Farm Trail is now OPEN! Now all that needs to be done is that **Mary will make two laminated signs regarding the dangerous clay slide area to show that it is off limits.**
- **Other Business/Need for an updated Handbook:** the above discussion led us to the understanding that the trails committee needs to revise or develop a new Handbook that includes an its mission, by-laws, policies, procedures, guidelines, and updated trail construction and maintenance specifications, possibly different for each trail in town depending on its use and restrictions, etc. Each board member should have this handbook so that when committee membership changes, these books can be passed on.
- **Town Forest Update:** the trail coming through the town forest, crossing a small section of land that was unknowingly on Duprey's land was gravely altered by too much ATV use. Sandy Conti spoke with the ATV riders who have stopped, but the trail needs to be rerouted now around a tree that was felled by the Duprey's after this altercation took place. **Nona will put up a couple of signs showing which way to go.**
- **Town Plan Survey:** Nona agreed to ask for input (or possibly chair a subcommittee) asking committee members what questions we would like to have asked about trails in East Montpelier. While brainstorming a few we came up with some possible ideas such as: Are you interested in there being a complete trail loop in East Montpelier? If the answer is Yes, a follow up question could be; Would you be willing/interested in talking with the EMTI committee about setting up a trail easement on your property? We could also just leave a space for people to put comments or reactions to trails in general in East Montpelier.
- **Holden Trail Update:** Rick will cut down a problematic tree on the trail near Holdens and leave Martha Holden with some blazes. Nona will go to Martha's and help her understand where to put up the blazes and how far apart to space them on the trail.
- **Gift:** Appreciation was expressed and a card was sent to Naomi Almeleh and Ivan Slobod for a \$50 check they donated to the committee
- **Esther's Rock:** Rick will speak with Richard Hall to see if he can get Esther's Rock moved before the snow falls. He thinks it would be nice to have a bench near the rock at some point. Rick also pointed out that putting good size boulders to discourage ATV riders near the Town Forest would be a good idea and also putting boulders near the rerouted trail by the cornfield might also be helpful in places where the trail makes sharp turns.
- **Next meeting: Monday, November 8th @ Richard Brock's house if he would be so kind.**

* Approved with a majority vote, after Nona called Sue Rigger and Richard Brock.