

EMTI minutes 5-20-13

Meeting held at Northview Dr. home of Virginia Farley, first outside meeting of the year with beautiful views of the Worcester Range and sunset.

Present: Richard, Rick, Nona, Dave, Mary and newest member, Virginia

We did not review the minutes of March 2013, not enough present at start of meeting

Richard B reported that we currently have just under \$9000 in the TD Bank account and \$15,337 in the Merchants Bank CD account.

New Board Member discussion: Virginia recently moved to East Montpelier and is interested in doing community service. She worked for the Vermont Land Trust for 20+ years and is now working for the federal Landtrust Alliance Program. We all are excited to welcome her to town and to our board. **Vote:** unanimous, 6 members voted.

National Trails Day discussion:

Dave updated our web page with the trail work plan, which is linked to the VLT newsletter and website and to the National Trails Asso website, thanks to Sharon Plumb of VLT. (I also noticed on May 21, that the announcement was published in the Times Argus, thanks, Dave)

Rick will lead construction on the bridge on the Esther Salmi trail on Sunday, June 2. Rick has ordered the lumber and will bill EMTI.

Only one confirmed response to call for help, so we plan to meet at the Mallory Brook trail head on Johnson rd and focus work there: transplant wild plants into completed sections of trail, install signage along length of trail.

There are 2 trees down on the Templeton Rd trail that need a chainsaw, one is near the town garage, and the other is on the snow mobile trail and might be easier to get to via the Esther Salmi trail from County Rd. Maybe Rick can send someone out there on Sunday if they have a chainsaw? There are also 3 smaller trees across the new section of trail re-routed around the new cornfield.

T Clark Property: Nona has heard from VCHB that T has signed a purchase and sale agreement, and Richard confirmed that the Clarks are here and will complete the final sale. **Nona will talk with T to find out when we can announce the conservation of the property and start work on the trail.**

Dodge Rd update: Agreement reached with Roger and Barbara, and son Steve, see the attached summary letter prepared by Mary. **Mary will print a temporary dog leash sign as well as new trail signs for the Fairmont Farm field and install them asap.** Once this is done she will ask the Clarks to move their posted signs as agreed. The town is investigating a sign for the parking area to curb the late night party parking.

Sparrow Farm Trail: MAMBA has replaced the rotten boards, bought with their own funds, as only a temporary measure. MAMBA's Dan Voison walked with Carl Etnier to try to locate a re-route for the wettest section of the trail. We should keep discussion going with Carl and hope to work on a new route next spring. The entire field has wet issues so it is not an easy fix, will need thought and more search. Maybe with her experience locating trails, Nona should go out with a group?

All agreed that we could use more board members and that it would be worth trying to find some younger members of our community who might be interested. **Rick Hopkins will call Colin Blackwell, and Dave will talk with Tyler and Robert Squires.** Mary mentioned that Sandy Woodbeck requested last year to resign from the board. At the time we thought it important that he stay on as full member and representative of the snow travelers in town. **Mary will call Sandy** to see if he is still willing to remain on the board. If he does wish to resign, as he requested last year, would he have any recommendation for another snow mobile enthusiast to join, or would Sandy be our go-to guy with concerns for the Gully jumpers. NOTE: 7-5-13 Sandy still wants to be on the board, and didn't make the meeting because he missed the late emails about change of location, so sorry Sandy.

Rick Hopkins called Dan and Flor Smith and Carroll Witham to let them know we are beginning the exploration of a trail connecting Sparrow Farm Rd to Horn of the Moon Rd. Jean and Bob Klein also are aware of the new trail, and are supportive. They would like to be included in the group that goes out to locate trail.

Nona wants to talk with Chris Pratt about waiting to mow the Johnson Rd field until the bob-o-links have completed nesting. **Mary will send her the easement and management agreements.**

Next meeting: July 8 at Virginia's house, 7-9 pm, thank you Virginia!

Minutes taken by Mary for Sue

April 30, 2013
25 Cummings Rd
Montpelier, VT 05602

Roger and Barbara Clark
820 Dodge Rd
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Dear Roger and Barbara,
Thank you so much for meeting with Paul, and Rick, Nona and I of East Montpelier Trails, Inc (EMTI) to look over the condition of the Dodge road trail.

I think we all agree that you have a very special property featuring a protected trail much loved and enjoyed by many Central Vermonters. We share the common goal of maintaining a safe and pleasant recreation experience on this trail while maximizing privacy for you as property owners, as well as for the walkers, runners, cyclists, and horseback riders on the trail.

With almost 12 miles of trail conserved in East Montpelier since 1992, we rely on volunteers for essentially all of the work involved in developing new trails and maintaining the established trails. Our goal is to protect as natural a setting for the trail as possible in order to maintain a beneficial habitat for plants and wildlife and for its esthetic value. This approach also allows us to minimize the maintenance required by our precious volunteers.

Our understanding of the outcome of our meeting on Tuesday April 23:

*EMTI will look into erecting a sign limiting parking hours to dawn to dark.

*Clark's will move No Trespassing signs back at least 20 feet from the trail edge

*EMTI will post a request to keep dogs leashed from the parking lot to the trail box, and to keep dogs under control

*The trail edge from the parking area to the log home will be allowed to revert to natural condition

*EMTI agrees that the Clark's may selectively cut and plant trees on the west side of the trail from Steve Clark's home north to the trail box

*North of the trail box, the only trees that may be culled are those (two?) in imminent danger of falling across the trail or over property owned by the Clark's. The rest of the west side of the trail will remain in its natural condition.

By "natural condition" we mean that debris and dead wood remains in place, the understory is allowed to grow as is, with the exception of invasive plants such as buckthorn, and dead trees remain standing unless they present an obvious danger to the trail users.

As per the April select board letter, the Clark's will contact EMTI and Paul Cate, as tree warden, before making any other changes within the 25' ROW along the trail.

It is clear that your entire family loves the property, gets great satisfaction working on improving the property, and enjoys the easy access to dog walks on the Dodge Road Trail, but I would encourage you all to pull out the enclosed copy of our trail map, and go check the other lovely trails in town. Each has its own character, and will give you a new perspective on the trail in your own backyard.

And please let us know if you encounter trail maintenance issues. We will do our best to attend to them as quickly as possible. However, please remember that we rely on volunteer labor and the volunteers may not get to the task as quickly as desired.

Again, thank you for meeting with us, and let's keep the communication going to avoid any misunderstandings.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Stone

East Montpelier Trails, President

Cc: Steven Clark, Bruce Johnson, Paul Cate, Nona Estrin, Rick