

EMTI

November 11, 2013

Present: Nona Estrin, Mary Stone, Sue Chickering, Sandy Woodbeck, Richard Brock, Sharon Plumb

Absent: Rick Hopkins, David Webb, Virginia Farley

Voted unanimously for Sharon Plumb to become a member of the committee.

Virginia Farley: 223-6470, Sharon Plumb: 223-2190, wk. 262-1241 sharon.plumb@gmail.com

Sue will create a new contact sheet.

Clark property conservation easement and development rights project is finally done! Karen Freeman was able to get more funding through the agency of Transportation in addition to the other funding sources, including EMTI funds and the East Montpelier Conservation Fund, VLT and VHCB. The closing was October 23rd, 2013. This is so exciting, we will now have to get together with the U32 administration/school board (once it is public) to partner with them to help build and/or fund a bridge across a stream in the woods and/or help with trail building. Once it is public, we will publicize in the signpost and on FB.

New trail: Sparrow Farm Road - Horn of the Moon Road - Mary and Sue walked potential trail locations on Sue and Clayton Putnam's, Carroll (and Susan) Witham's, Jean Vissering's and Bob Klein's and Amy Thornton-Kelly's lands. We did find a way through these properties, but in laying out the trail it became apparent that it would be running parallel and in some cases very close to the MAMBA trail. If we can approach Dan Smith about allowing us to walk on his trail without having to secure a permanent easement, he might be more amenable to this idea. We can make sure he is aware that if need be we could relocate onto other people's lands in the future because we have permission to do this.

Boardwalk: The board walk is in disrepair, and Carl Etnier is OK with plastic decking. Gerry Hawks invented these plastic 4'x2'long x3" tall bike trax that fasten together once the ground is levelled. Esthetically it is not particularly pleasing and the primary buyers of this stuff is the military. It is tan and completely free, sitting in Mary's yard. We could put landscape fabric underneath. We will have to get rid of the old boardwalk wood as part of this process. Recyclable as well. But public perception of this kind of material on a town trail would not be very favorable. Nona suggests that we prepare the public in writing before we actually follow through on this. We have 400 feet of this bike trax to cover approximately 500 feet of trail. If we straighten out the trail it will likely reach the mark. We can likely figure this out. There is still the issue of making sure that we are in compliance with wetland restrictions. Hopefully, Rick Hopkins will be able to take care of this issue. This project will not happen until next spring at this point so this gives us time to publicize. Richard Brock will contact Josh Ryan from Timber and Stone to see if he has any other solutions to our problem. Sandy thinks that we may not want to involve the public at all. If we do alert the public we can make sure that people are aware that it is functional and FREE! We can ask Rick what MAMBA thinks of this idea, too. We can discuss this further at future meetings.

Mallory Brook: Mary will send Sue pictures for the FB page. Greg has been making slow progress, finishing up the check dams (which slows the flow of the water) on some of the streams but the work is not complete. He hopes to be finished this fall. He has put in some nice stones in the wet areas and he has other stones ready to go. He has also put in some box drains. Greg will send us our last bill when he is finished, hopefully soon!

Other business: We will postpone the discussion about the assessment that Virginia Farley has informed us about until our January meeting. Bruce Johnson suggests that we actually put ourselves on the Town Meeting docket as a line item to rally support from the town. Maybe we can discuss this further at our next meeting as well. Another idea to raise money would be to create a "Friends of East Montpelier Trails". Mary will ask Bruce about the time frame for submitting a proposal. Mary would also like us to communicate more regularly with our Trail stewards. Nona believes that using the skeleton of Virginia's process might be very useful for us to do. Sandy thinks it would be a good idea to have a person who oversees the trail stewards. We need to designate a "trail master" or coordinator who could actually be paid a stipend (this might be a great use of the town \$ if we put in for it. Having a strategic plan would be a valuable tool for us.

Next meeting: Mid-January