

EMTI Meeting Minutes
December 5th, 2017
7:00 PM

Present: Rick Hopkins, Richard Brock, Mary Stone, Sue Chickering, Madeleine Mongan, Dave Burley, Jennifer Boyer, Nona Estrin

Minutes: approved unanimously: Mary motioned to approve, seconded by Rick Hopkins

Treasurer's Report: \$13,800 in CD, We took \$2000 out of CD and put into bank account so we could use it to pay our contribution for the Lyle Haven trail. This leaves 11,800 in the CD. We should be getting the \$4000 from the town soon.

Mallory Brook: Rick spoke with Chris Pratt for an ongoing update recently. He said that things are moving along. When they spoke several weeks ago Rick had let him know that we had some concerns about the stability of the bridge as was originally planned. Rick told him that we wanted to see the down river side completed by the end of the year. Chris was not interested in using the telephone poles and he is continuing to build it as he had started in the beginning. Chris is also using Chris Temple's suggestion regarding using 6 bolts per intersecting logs to make it more stable. Greg Western thought that we should check out insurance with Sumana Serchin (the trail steward of all of the VLT trails on this area). He believes that the Vermont Land Trust covers the trail and thus covers the bridge. **Mary will check this out with VLT, explaining that we don't have a contract with Chris at this point. Rick H will contact Dave Webb to let him know that it would be better for him not to work with Chris given the liability of this situation** and that we will let Chris get his own workers on this project. So for the time being we will let things evolve through the end of the year. Chris told Rick that he plans to be done before the spring of 2018.

Another thought raised by Madeleine: Would it be appropriate to approach the town about taking general trail maintenance and construction projects under the town's maintenance plans? If we did this, then we might have to become two separate entities. This is just food for thought and something we can discuss after we get more information from VLT about insurance.

Town Meeting Request: We would like to ask for another \$4000. Rick raised an important point about the fact that if we ask for money we need to be able to show people how we are going to use it. We talked about possibly using some of the town money for the wetland work behind Bobolink Farm. **Mary will tell Bruce Johnson that we would like to request this again.** Madeleine suggested we ask Josh Ryan what it might cost to connect the lollipop trail to Towne Hill Road. In the future we also hope to one day connect to Brazier Road. **Nona will talk with Bruce and Carol about where they are at with getting a Conservation easement and whether they are going to roll in the trail easement to this proposal.**

Big storm damage: Josh's suggested guidelines are the following:

1. EMTI should do a thorough walk through and inventory of the trail system after a storm of this magnitude.
2. Trails that have limited or basic tree removal should be addressed soon thereafter.

3. Trails with substantial damage with leaning or otherwise unsafe trees should be temporarily posted and closed. The trees should be removed by our approved list of local sawyers after contact with the landowner has been made.

I hope you all find this helpful. Assuming I can make it to the next meeting, I would welcome the chance to discuss and or revise our tree clearing policy and expectations. Josh

Mary pointed out that if we had trail stewards again, like we used to have, with a basic rule book, explaining where the landowner boundaries are. This discussion is for another meeting or a subcommittee to take on. David Webb would be a good person to have involved.

Maps and Signs: Many thanks to Jennifer regarding the trail map work that she has been doing for EMTI. We discussed the dates that trails should be OPEN to horses and bicycles between June 1st to November 1st.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6th 7:00 PM at Jennifer's studio (95 Powder Horn Glen Road)