

EMTI Meeting Minutes

6/25/20

In attendance: Board- Mary Stone, Madeleine Mongan, Richard Brock, Jennifer Boyer, Nona Estrin, Lauren Padilla, David Webb

Guests- Richard Hall, Greg Western, Loring Starr

- ☐ Richard Hall attended to discuss agricultural and forest management practices in relation to EMTI trails that adjoin his active farming fields. Generally, he wanted to provide information about his farming practices – specifically herbicide treatments on both tilled and non tilled fields, manure spraying, corn harvesting and logging for acreage expansion. These operations typically involve large equipment and field applications of herbicide and manure that have visual impacts. He sees benefits in educating the public about these practices, which he emphasized are done in accordance with Dept. of Ag requirements by well trained equipment operators, but that may surprise people or appear intimidating or impactful to the environment. A good discussion followed about the practices with these action items agreed to going forward:
- o Herbicide application- Trails adjoining fields should be closed during this once per year application. This typically would require a three day window encompassing the application day and an additional 48 hour factor of safety. The 3-day window would occur for all impacted trails at the same time. Richard should provide as much notice as possible regarding dates. EMTI should create and place signage for closures and provide notice of upcoming closures on our Facebook page and in Signpost.
 - o Harvesting- No closures needed but post information for public safety
 - o Manure Application- May include 8” hoses crossing trails. No closures but post information about practices.
 - o Logging Operations- Richard works with Forester Marcus Bradley on his woodlots (all in Current Use with management plans), and uses Dennis Ducharme for logging. EMTIs and Richard Hall’s concerns that came out of the Ormsbee logging job interaction can be alleviated by better communication about the timing and scope of logging operations and their expected impacts on the trails, faith that the final product will be completed in a professional manner, and an understanding of the large responsibility EMTI has as stewards of these public resources. The Ormsbee logging was planned and EMTI knew generally about it, but was surprised by the scope and did not have clear understanding of start and end dates. Speaking as far in advance as possible about these issues would be beneficial to all parties. It was noted that Dennis Ducharme did a really nice job on cleaning up after the logging and on creating a new bench for the trail.
 - o General- Provide public education through the Signpost and Facebook pages about the farming practices being employed. Loring will be in contact with

Richard's daughter Claire to coordinate.

[?] Other Items

- o Greg Western reported that a low bid of \$1.2 million has been received and is to be awarded for the Winooski Bridge project.
- o Insurance- Richard got quotes from Noyle Johnson about premises liability (\$1037) and directors/officers protection (\$637). The Town cannot directly pay for these costs unless EMTI is under Town's umbrella. Option was discussed on putting an item on Ballot next year for Town to pay EMTI who would then pay insurance company. Need to discuss further. Landowner information for trail corridors has been provided to the Town.
- o National Trails Day- Dave provided summary of boardwalk project on the County Rd to Town Forest trail segment completed by a group of around 14 volunteers. Rick Hopkins has plans to extend the boardwalk slightly further. Annual scything work was completed. Geoff Beyer completed some rock removal work on fenceline on Sparrow Farm Trail to facilitate mowing and protect ankles. Dave will meet up with him after Tim Frazier mows the trail to see if any more work is warranted. Geoff had offered to mow this section for some compensation, but it was decided that this should be kept under Tim Frazier's scope.
- o Wintertime Use of Sparrow Trail- Given ongoing development of cross country skiing network and increased fat bike use observed, it was agreed to put discussion on the agenda for a Fall meeting.
- o Mallory Brook- Mary ran our standard bench design by Chris Pratt and he did not want to build himself but liked the design, so this can move forward. Future logging is planned and we discussed need to make clear that:
 - [?] No equipment is allowed on or near trail**
 - [?] Need EMTI permission to remove anything in easement. Several trees within easement appear to be marked for cutting. This can't happen.**

Nona agreed to talk to Chris about these requirements.

- o Sparrow North- Lauren provided a summary of progress made on potential trail corridor. Janet Powers and Chris Yannoni who own land now which encompasses easement granted permission to walk/flag a route. Mary and Lauren did this and see a couple of good possibilities to tie in to the MAMBA trail. Jean and Bob Vissering have also given positive feedback about use of their land which will provide flexibility in trail placement, as it seemed there was some discrepancy about whose land a relevant portion of the MAMBA trail is on. Lauren, Mary and Rick walked a second time to look at options in steeper sections. Things look promising to move forward on this. Next step is a conversation with Flor and Dan Smith about potential joint use of their section of MAMBA to Horn of the Moon Rd. Looking further ahead, next section north will involve discussions with Christine and Bob Fitch and Elliott Morse to extend from Horn of the Moon over to County Road.

- o Sparrow Bench- Rick has secured permission to put a bench along existing trail and will be planning for a small crew to install.
- o Next meeting- July 23rd @ Mary's