

East Montpelier Trails, Inc.

Minutes of Board meeting, March 21, 2018.

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. at 234 Cutler Heights, but was then delayed a few minutes as Chair Stone was delayed at work. There were present: Mary Stone, Chair, Jennifer Boyer, Dave Burley, Dave Webb, Josh Ryan, Nona Estrin and Richard Brock, acting Secretary. Madeline Mongan appeared a few minutes later.

The first matter was that of minutes of the February 2018 meeting. There was a discussion as to the Bobolink Farm entry but the minutes were ultimately unanimously approved.

Richard Brock then gave the Treasurer's report. There is about \$13,000 in the NCFCU dedicated trails acquisition fund. There is a little over \$11,000 in the TDBank discretionary account. The Town voters approved the \$4000 appropriation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. The Treasurer then raised the question of a "Mark Billian" gift of \$25 which requires agreeing to certain terms. No one was aware of those terms. Ms Estrin knows Mark Billian and will contact him for any further information that he might have.

The next matter was that of signs. Signs are needed at each end of the Karen Clark Trail. Ms Boyer will circulate designs for board review. She will talk to Greg Western about the fabrication of the signs.

The next matter was the Bobolink Farm trail. The owners Carol and Bruce Holick (?) are disposed to the grant of a trail. It would run from Town Hill Road into the Mallory Brook property. There are two issues. The first issue is the location. Mr. Ryan will work with Bruce Holick to establish a location. Second, the owners are reluctant to grant an open ended easement. The board discussed this and decided that a 10 year easement would be acceptable. The trail will require a boardwalk but its useful life will be no more than 10 years. Also, once installed and familiar, the board felt that the landowners would be comfortable with extensions. Ms Mongan will contact the Vermont Land Trust to see if they can suggest a form or text of an easement for 10 years.

The next matter was that of Les Birnbaum's driveway. Mr Birnbaum is building or has built a house near the Sparrow Farm Trail. The driveway as built encroaches on the Sparrow Farm Trail. Town Zoning Administrator Bruce Johnson has been consulted and agrees that the driveway location is improper. Ms Mongan will discuss this with Mr Johnson and Ms Estrin will consult Carl Etnier about it. A course of action will be decided later.

The next matter was trailhead signs for the Dodge Road trail. Mr Webb will build them and Mr Ryan will install them.

The next matter was trail standards and trail stewards. The discussion was wide ranging. Mr Ryan has trail construction standards that he will circulate. Also, the maintenance of a steward for each trail is important. The committee attempted a comprehensive list. They are listed below. Contact information for each steward should be maintained by the board. Members should provide what contact information they have and provide any missing trails/stewards. Here is the list from the meeting

Haggett Road/Town Forest - Rick Hopkins

Templeton Road – Possibly Norman Carter ??

Dodge Road – Ms Mongan will ask Tom Schmidt

Karen Clark Trail – Nona Estrin, Charles Johnson and Kathy Topping

Ormsby Trail – Ms Boyer will ask Loring Starr

Mallory Brook –

Becca Jordan and Sam Campbell-Nelson??

Ms Estrin will ask Sharon Plumb if she would consider doing so, as well.

Sparrow Farm Trail – Geoff Beyer

Ormsby Trail Center Road to Powder Horn Glen – Jennifer Boyer and Loring Starr
(lstarrvt@gmail.com) 229 0007

There was then a general discussion of the best practices for trail stewardship. How often should a steward patrol? Safety concerns for cutting and felling large trees? Need to work with landowners? No action was taken.

The next matter was logging in the Mallory Brook property. Concern: could the logging equipment be damaging the stone work on the trail. The board asks Rick Hopkins to raise this question with Christopher Pratt.

The next matter was that of the proposed Town Plan. The Planning Commission has asked for the names of roads in the town that have significant use as part of the EMT trail system or have unusual scenic walking opportunities. Brain storming led to the following list: Center Road from the Center to Adamant; Sanders Circle; Brazier; North Street from Cummings Road to Horn of the Moon Road; Jacobs Road; Dodge Road; Templeton Road; School House Road and Haggett Road.

The next matter was that of requests for trails information, including Front Porch Forum inquiries. The board discussed working with the East Montpelier Historical Society to provide guides to help new trail users to find the trails. The discussion then turned to National Trails Day and the possibility that on National Trails Day the board members would serve as guides. Although no formal action was taken, it was the sense of the board that this should be done. This can be discussed at the April meeting. National Trails Day is June 2 this year.

Jennifer Boyer volunteered to use her Smartphone application to measure the trails she walks.

The meeting then concluded at about 8:15. The next meeting will be Thursday April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at 234 Cutler Heights Road.

Richard Brock, Acting Secretary