

East Montpelier Trails, Inc. Trail Maintenance Procedures

Background information for Trail Stewards:

1. Trail stewards should be aware of safety concerns such as the risks they might encounter when cutting trees, using chainsaws, moving large rocks, or using other equipment. Trail users and stewards should wear safety orange or bright colors in hunting season.
2. Trail stewards should be aware of any relevant policies about biking, horses, pets, hunting, and Right to Roam on their sections of trail
3. Trail stewards should be aware of reasonable preferences of the landowners about being notified when healthy trees are down and blocking the trail.
4. Trail stewards should report trail conditions, maintenance and repairs, and any other issues for the situations noted below to EMTI Steward Coordinator, Trish Dwyer at Billandtrish1@comcast.net or 802-498-4994. EMTI Board members will contact landowners when necessary.
5. Trail steward should be aware that EMTI does not currently have liability insurance and is investigating options.
6. Trail stewards should only complete maintenance activities if they feel comfortable doing so. They are not obligated to perform maintenance or make repairs. Any maintenance or repairs needed or completed should be reported to the EMTI Steward Coordinator.

Regular Trail Maintenance:

1. Steward Coordinator will provide periodic reminders to trail stewards
2. Trail stewards shall walk through trails a minimum of four times a year, including a winter walk through, to assess hazards, erosion, obstructions, signage, or other issues affecting the trail.
3. Trail stewards should keep the trail pruned of branches and small seedlings and brush that will grow to obstruct the trail.
4. Major issues should be referred to EMTI. Major issues would be things that create safety hazards or would necessitate involving the landowner like deciding how to harvest logs from a big blowdown or a large amount of water on the trail.
5. Minor issues may be addressed by trail stewards and reported to EMTI or addressed by EMTI. Minor issues would include things like minor erosion or a single downed tree.
6. Reports of walk through and trail problems should be sent via email to the EMTI Steward Coordinator. Trail stewards may also contact the Steward Coordinator when they need assistance with trail maintenance.
7. The Steward Coordinator and EMTI Board will target and advertise bigger trail maintenance/ building projects to the Steward list for scheduled Work Days.
8. All Work Days with volunteers will start with a description or demonstration of work to be done, tools/techniques that will be used, and any specific instructions regarding safety.
9. EMTI may periodically plan and conduct training on specific trail building techniques or tool use.

Trail maintenance after a big storm:

- A major storm is a storm with 2 or more inches of rain and/or high winds.
- The Steward Coordinator or another member of the EMTI board will try to send out an email to trail stewards when trails should be assessed for storm damage.
- Trail stewards should do a thorough walk through and inventory of their trails after a storm as soon as it is safe and possible. Reports of walk through and trail findings should be reported via email to the EMTI Steward Coordinator.
- Trails that have limited or basic tree removal needs or limited erosion damage should be addressed soon thereafter by trail stewards and reported to EMTI.
- Trails with substantial damage, and trails with leaning or otherwise unsafe trees should be temporarily posted and closed. Trail stewards should notify the steward coordinator about trails that should be closed. The trees will be removed by sawyers approved by EMTI after contact with the landowner has been made by an EMTI Board member.
- Trail stewards should only complete maintenance activities if they feel comfortable doing so. They are not obligated to perform maintenance or make repairs. Any maintenance or repairs needed or any maintenance or repairs completed should be reported to the EMTI Steward Coordinator.

Trail Stewards:

- Haggett to Templeton – Rick Hopkins 229-4375
- Templeton to Center - Norman Carter Norman.s.carter@gmail.com 223-2324, Mark Stephen Mlstephen.esq@gmail.com
- Center to Dodge - Mark Stephen Mlstephen.esq@gmail.com and Tom Schmidt tomschmidt55@gmail.com
- Johnson Road to Mallory Brook Trail - Alex Brown Alexbrown802vt@gmail.com 802-249-1365
- Cherry Tree to Mallory Brook - Dave Oliver Oliver-dcoliver@comcast.net

- Cherry Tree to Townhill - Sarah Bothfeld Bothfeldsarabhthfld@gmail.com and Michael Kulaga Kulaga-mkulaga@hotmail.com
- School House Rd./Wheeler Rd. to U 32 (Clark Trail), Nona Estrin and Charles Johnson, 223-7745, 839-9724 (c)

- Center Rd. to Powder Horn Glen Rd. (Ormsbee Trail) -Jennifer Boyer vtpots@gmail.com 223-8926 (h), 522-3841 (m) Loring Starr LStarrVT@gmail.com, 229-0007

- Sparrow Farm Rd. to Montpelier - Carolyn Shapiro Carolyn@energyblalance.us, Geoff Beyer 249-2424, geoffbeyer@gmail.com, as backup Dave Webb 279-2198 dhwebb67@gmail.com