

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019

Members Present: Gary Gulka, Andy Gilbert, Gwen Hallsmith, Paul Wade, Michael Socks, Kris Schmitt

Next Meeting: April 10, 7 pm

Draft minutes of February 27 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Cabot Trails Initiative

The Committee reviewed the draft Purpose and Needs Statement for the municipal planning grant project that was developed at the previous meeting. The draft was amended to read as follows:

Draft Purpose Statement:

The Town of Cabot will evaluate the opportunities and constraints of developing a non-motorized trail network to link our designated village center to regional networks and local recreation amenities. We hope to increase outdoor opportunities to keep Cabot a nice place to live work and play.

Draft Needs Statement:

The primary goals are:

- Develop outdoor trails and paths to increase recreational opportunities in town and attract visitors to town which will boost the local economy
- Establish a well-coordinated effort to educate and recruit landowners for recreational trails. Given limited public land in Cabot, voluntary use of private land for outdoor recreation opportunities is essential
- Provide links for public assets such as Molly's Falls Pond State Park, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Cross Vermont trail in Marshfield
- Provide access between trails and the Village Center
- Provide safe corridors for cyclists and pedestrians
- Support ag-related tourism with trails and connectivity
- Keep the trail network accessible for a wide variety of users
- Keep the trail network easily maintainable
- Improve access for people with disabilities and older adults where feasible to enjoy

Miscellaneous Business

The Committee reviewed the map developed by Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission that identified existing formal and informal trails in town. This map will eventually be used for public meetings seeking input on possible future trail locations. Changes were noted that need to be made.

Paul and Michael attempted to walk the Urban Road legal trail to Cabot Plains, but were unable to cross the swamp to and complete the walk to Cabot Plains Rd.

Andy will draft an article for the Cabot Chronicle, thanking Cabot voters for supporting the newly approved Cabot Trails Committee and budget.

Andy had a conversation with Amy Bothfeld who had concerns about trails traversing farm pastures and interfering with farm operations. Andy assured her that any public trails would be developed with full knowledge and permission of land owners.