

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019

Members Present: Andy Gilbert, Gwen Hallsmith, Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka

Members of Public Present: Dana Glazier, Ted Bermingham, Fred Jaegels, Amy Hornblas, Dan Currier,
Central VT Regional Planning Commission

Next Meeting: July 10, 7 pm

Minutes of May 8 approved without changes

Public Comment

Select Board has not officially appointed Dana Glazier as committee member. Andy will follow up on this.

Trails Grant

Dan Currier provided meeting notes from the Talking Trails public meeting on May 18. He said there were 28 people in attendance, including 6 committee members. Dan provided a map with "informal" trail locations and areas where the public was interested in a trail network. The location of the trails is very approximate. Amy Hornblas expressed concern that these are called informal trails. Dan said that the committee has called these informal trails, acknowledging that they are not official trails with documented landowner permission to use as such, but actually potential, possible or proposed trail areas that could be further pursued by the committee and include town roads and legal trails as well as private property. Concern was expressed that a map such as this misrepresents that these are designated trails when they are not. The committee will take this under consideration and clarify this point.

Dan proposed and the committee agreed that an additional map be generated from the information gathered at the May 18 meeting that shows potential corridors areas and destinations that would be desirable for trails, without being more specific to location. The committee agreed that such corridors would include: (1) the northwest area of town around Coits Pond and the town forest; (2) village center to old center of town and connection to Cabot Winter Trail and Langone Rd; (3) village to Wheeler Rd and to Molly's Falls Pond State Park; (4) village to Talbert's property and connection to Churchill Rd and beyond; (5) eastern section of town from Molly's Falls State Park (including Hooker Mountain) to the south all the way to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail to the north. Dan will develop the map for the next meeting and will also identify parcel owners in these corridors.

Suggestion made that the committee contact surrounding towns to get a better understanding of their trails. Dan said that he is aware that Marshfield has some trail activity, as well as Danville. He is not aware of Woodbury or other adjacent towns.

Comment made that it is very important to make a distinction of how trails would be designated for use - year round or seasonal. Many potential trail areas could involve pasture land that landowners would not agree to year round use.

Suggestion made for committee to focus on developing one or two trails to show success, rather than trying to map out a town-wide trail network. It was agreed that the work under the grant is intended to do this once we have done the initial planning and scoping. It was also suggested that we focus on areas where landowners have already expressed strong interest in allowing public trail use.

Fourth of July Participation

Trails Committee will participate in July 4 parade and will sign up for a table on the green. Dan will develop a 6 foot banner that can be used in the parade and for a table display, as well as maps. Details to be worked out.

Field Trips

Niels and Karen Larsen are interested in walking informal trails in the northwest part of town on their property and surrounding areas. Andy will let the committee know by email of possible dates.

Cabot Winter Trail area will be visited.

Talbert property - on hold for now.

We will pursue a meeting with the East Montpelier trails group, with a possible invite to our August meeting - or attending a meeting in East Montpelier. Fred Jaegels and Gwen will follow up on this.