

Cabot Trails Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2020

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

Members of the Public Present: Clare Rock, Silas Robbins

Next Meeting: **July 8, 7 pm**

This meeting was held electronically in accordance with state open meeting statutes for electronic meetings.

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved with the addition of a status update on Talbert property trails and a discussion of involving Cabot youth in our trails efforts.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 27 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Talbert Property Trails

Still need to get adjacent landowner approval. Chuck Talbert is working on contacting this landowner. Chuck is attempting to get help in repairing his mower so that a path can be maintained through the hay field for trails through the sugar woods. He is hoping to get some assistance from Tomas Vondra.

Youth Involvement in Trails

Silas Robbins attended the meeting and there was a discussion of trails that Cabot youth can be involved with. These included Town Forest, Talbert property, and Cabot Winter Trail. We hope to continue the discussion and get more youth involved.

Continued Review of Draft Trails Report and Implementation Program

The Committee provided input to Clare Rock on the latest draft of the Trails Report and Implementation Program. Gary will provide Clare with a paragraph to add to the Introduction on how the report is organized and what it contains. A sentence will also be added to the Introduction acknowledging that the success of a trails network is dependent on private landowner involvement in allowing public access to their lands under the purview of the Trails Committee which will monitor trail etiquette and rules, trail maintenance and use, and maintain good communication with landowners, addressing any concerns in a prompt manner.

Under Trail Planning Principles and Guidelines (page 7), a bullet will be added acknowledging the importance of private landowner permissions for trail access and development and the importance of maintaining effective

communications with landowners to monitor use and maintenance issues. Andy will provide Clare with the language to add to this section.

On Page 6, Clare will add a brief summary of the Talking Trails Breakfast and the Landowner Breakfast. More detail will be provided on these meetings in the appendix.

The concept of Friends of the Trails was discussed as a trail stewardship organization of individuals that are willing to maintain certain trails and/or trail segments and monitor them, to assist the Trails Committee.

It was agreed that the following would be added to the Resources section, even if only a listing of web addresses: Cross Vermont Trail, East Montpelier Trails, TrailFinder, and Rails to Trails Conservancy.

At the July meeting the Committee will review the next-to-final draft.

#### Public Meeting Planning

At the July meeting, we will review the status of our ability to hold an in-person public meeting on the final draft report, which will depend on Vermont Department of Health Guidelines and further input from the Cabot Select Board.

#### Other Business

Andy brought attention to the Slate Valley Trails network in southern Vermont and suggested that committee members take a look at the web site: <https://slatevalleytrails.org/>

The Committee will communicate about any need to do some trail work prior to the next meeting.