

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022

Present: Dana Glazier, Kris Schmitt, Paul Wade, Gary Gulka, Rylan Sirianni

Next Meeting: February 9

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of December 8 approved without changes

Public Comment

Rylan Sirianni introduced herself as being interested in trails in town, finding out more about the work of the committee, and how to become more involved.

Administrative

Kris reviewed the committee finances. We currently have \$411.39 remaining in our \$500.00 annual budget. However, we have over \$800 in outstanding bills for purchases of materials. To cover this, we will tap into the \$1000.00 in donations we have received that is held by CCA. This will leave us with a total of about \$600 of remaining funding available. Gary pointed out that we should make sure we spend down the town appropriation before July 1, as that will not carry over like the CCA funds.

Trail Updates/Priorities/Mapping

Winter Trail – Eister property from Taylor Rd to Dubray Rd has been cleared and marked, but not yet mapped. We will complete this soon, and the Winter Trail will be complete. The map needs to be revised.

Langone Rd Trail – In the process of completing trail signs. The trail route was recently modified to avoid the driveway to houses and outbuildings, cutting across some agricultural fields and coming out on Menard Rd a little further down the road, close to the green house on Menard Rd. We hope to have trail signs completed this week and work on mapping the trail.

Paul removed a tree at the end of Dubray Rd on the Osborne section of the trail. There is another tree to be removed and there is a fallen tree at the Osborne gate that may require a tractor and chain to remove.

Paul noted that there was a stake in the ground with flagging tape and a steel rod on Langone Rd in the vicinity of the boundary of Deasy and Andrews. No one else had seen it.

We do not have a permission form from Osborne. Paul will work on getting this, but it may not be possible until summer.

The following items are on our To Do List, some of which are carried over from last month:

Action/Next Steps

Get more hemlock slabs – Chuck will check with Nate Smith

Remove trail signs on Guzman property – Chuck

Make/laminate new map for Winter Trail – once other trails are marked and mapped

Research/purchase waterproof boxes for kiosks. Dana will make a PVC pipe prototype; we will purchase a commercially available plastic box to test out. The goal is to get these boxes on kiosks before February meeting

Trail apps – Paul and others

Post trail maps on town web site - Gary

Front Porch Forum/Cabot Connects post on trail updates (especially if we get grant)

Landowner permissions to follow up on: Paquin, Glinka, Osborne, Hale

Tree removal at end of Dubray Rd – Paul and others

Contact Robert Williams re: Urban Rd – Taylor Rd connector – Chuck

Trail signs at end of Dubray Rd should be color coded black and orange (currently just black)

Plowing of Trailhead Parking Areas

It appears that Luke Persons will be plowing the parking access for the McQueeney trails, so we will not have to arrange for plowing. We are still working on Elm Street Cemetery parking. We have placed grade stakes beyond the kiosk to mark potential parallel parking for three cars. It appears that Elm Street is being plowed past the cemetery.

Action/Next Steps: Find out who is plowing and inquire as to whether they can plow out a parallel parking area.

Recreational Trail Grant Application

Decision on grants has been delayed to mid-February.

Public Outreach

The Committee reviewed a Trails Update which will be submitted to the Cabot Chronicle for the February issue.

Trails Committee Vacancy

The Committee reviewed a draft vacancy announcement which will be submitted to the Cabot Chronicle.

Action/Next Steps: Dana will post the announcement on Front Porch Forum this weekend and again in two weeks. Dana will also post to the Trails Facebook page and Cabot Connects. The announcement will be placed in the Cabot Chronicle. The goal will be to review letters of interest at our February meeting.

New Business

In our meetings and subsequent meeting minutes, we will make a point of identifying key action items and next steps for each agenda item and make sure these are communicated and emphasized to members when the minutes are sent out.

Suggestion that we acquire first aid kits soon for use by field workers.

Suggestion that we track our volunteer hours along with miles of trails. It was agreed that we would ask committee members to report monthly. It was noted that we would be tracking these items and others if we receive the grant, including trail user numbers and trail user comments.

Action/Next Steps: Committee members will record volunteer hours and report monthly.

Suggestion that advertising on kiosks be pursued.

Action/Next Steps: Dana will check with the Town Clerk to see if this is possible.

Molly's Falls Pond State Park – There is a new park administrator that is seeking volunteers to assist with park activities. It would be a good idea to see how our goals align with theirs. It was agreed that we would follow up and try to set up a meeting that includes other town organizations like Planning Commission and Conservation Committee.

Action/Next Steps: Gary will contact other town organizations to arrange a meeting on Molly's Falls Pond State Park with the VT Dept of Forests, Parks & Recreation administrator.

Suggestion that we begin discussing trail stewards, regardless of whether we get the trails grant.

Action/Next Steps: Trails steward program will be placed on the meeting agenda for next month.