

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021

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

Next Meeting: November 10

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of September 8 approved as written

Public Comment

No public comment

Administrative

Have purchased lumber and hardware for kiosks and signs; estimated total expenses for the fiscal year (since July 1) are \$200 - \$250. Gary and Kris attended a Select Board budget meeting on October 12. We provided them with a preliminary budget need for next year of \$2500 but also explained that we will be applying for a recreational grant that could cover some of these budget increases. We explained that we now have a master plan and have a lot more landowner interest in trails, and that \$500 is not adequate to cover our purchases of lumber and materials. Gary also mentioned that we submitted a proposal to the Select Board requesting \$40,000 of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding being allocated to the town. The next meeting is the first Tuesday of the month when we hope to learn more about the possibility of ARPA funding.

Trail Updates/Priorities/Mapping

We reviewed a Trails To Do List that was provided before the meeting.

Talbert Farm Trails – We need to complete the map and any name changes. We need to post “Private” signs in areas where trail users could wander off the trail onto another trail not authorized. No kiosk needed – we will post maps on the sugarhouse. We will post laminated trail maps at key intersections to help trail users with wayfinding. We should remap the Mitchell’s River Run trail. It was agreed that on all maps we should designate that these trails are part of the Cabot Trails Network with web site provided. We need to decide how to address the southern end of the VAST trail as it continues beyond the trail network.

McQueeney Trails – We need some map changes, adding road names, showing other connector roads like Bricketts Crossing, adding trail names or other changes that Cheryl McQueeney requests. We also need to post a number of “Private” signs. We also need to post laminated trail maps at key intersections.

Cabot Winter Trail – We need to remap the trail with GPS and take bridge measurements. Paul plans to do this, as well as deal with parking on the Dubray Rd end. We will need to post trail maps at each end of the trail and designate parking on Dubray Rd end of the trail. We discussed the Menard Rd and Taylor Rd spur trails but we may not have time to address these until the other priorities are completed. Eister property up to Taylor Rd will need clearing.

Burt Property – Gary will contact Greg Burt and see if we can meet with him on a weekend in early November to walk potential trail routes.

Town Forest – We noted the work that needs to be done, but not a priority in the short term this fall.

Village Loop Trail – Some signs have been removed from each end of the trail until we have permission. Hemlock slabs have already been removed from VAST bridge and are being stored at Kris' house.

Cross VT – LVRT – We should at least try to have a discussion with the Ouweleen's on the Marshfield end of the trail.

"Private" Signs – We have purchased the plywood and we will consider cutting out and painting signs with white background and stencil the lettering on the signs. We should work on this in the coming week so that we can begin placing these signs out in the field.

Public Outreach

Cabot Chronicle articles are due on October 17. It was agreed that we would try to get a full page to display the three complete trail maps in color and include a short article. It was agreed that we would pay the \$75 fee for color printing of the page.

Grant Application/ARPA

Now that we have been invited to submit a full application for the VOREC grants, we are awaiting the grant application details. We formed a team of Gary, Kris, and Michael, to work on the application. Gary and Kris will attend the next ARPA meeting in early November. Gwen will take the lead on the Mountain Dew grant.

New Business

It was agreed that we would research bylaws and their content and present at the next meeting. It was agreed that we need to have the Select Board reappoint committee members and that we should establish staggered terms so that only one or two member terms expire in any given year. This will also be on the agenda for the next meeting.