

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021

Present: Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Chuck Talbert, Michael Socks, Dana Glazier

Next Meeting: December 8

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of October 13 approved as written

Public Comment

No public comment

Administrative

Some purchases this month for grade stakes, paint, wire, and map laminating.

Trail Updates/Priorities/Mapping

Talbert Farm Trails and McQueeney trails in good shape.

Winter Trail – trail has been color coded black and a small amount of work on signs and bridges needed. Trail maps and etiquette signs need to be posted at each end. Eister property trail up to Taylor Rd has been cleared and trail signs need to be put up. Minor clearing/lopping is all that is needed.

Langone Road – We met with Dawn Andrews and she is agreeable to public access year-round. We will work with her on signs and map location. There will be no designated parking, but she would not object to an occasional car or two parked off the side of the road. We are hoping to include this trail in the grant application.

Burt Orchard – We have met with Greg Burt twice and are working on a conceptual trail layout of about 1.5 miles. There will be an extensive amount of fencing required because most of the trail borders on land where animals are pastured. New gates will also be needed. We are planning to include this trail in the recreational trail grant application and estimate that total costs for fencing, posts, gates, and labor will be over \$40K.

Town Forest – We hope to include road and parking improvements in the grant application as well as further trail development and possibly access to the Town Forest through the town garage property. The current access road and parking are on the property of Shaun Brooks, so we will need his permission to do the work.

Old Center of Town – We are considering including parking improvements at the old center of town area on town property. We also plan on meeting with Steve Hogan to discuss the trail to the village and possible improvements.

Talbert Farm Trails – Chuck said that he will send the map .gpx files for some loops on Andy Kaptan's property.

Other General Priorities – We need to get our existing trail maps up on the town web site and post trail maps on trail apps. We need to select and purchase waterproof plastic brochure holders to place on kiosks. We need to work on a trail user/sign-in/comment log for the kiosks to monitor trail usage.

Michael has made a Cabot Trails map showing existing trails, our proposed projects for the grant, and the conceptual connector route between the rail trails. We will include this map in our trail grant application. He will send out the map to committee members.

Status of Recreational Trail Grant Funding

Michael, Kris, and Gary are working on the recreational trail grant which is due November 29. There is an extensive amount of work, including landowner permissions (5 and 10 years), defining a project team, letters of support, Agency of Natural Resources project review for needed state permits, and cost estimates. We met with the Planning Commission last week and they are supporting the application. We will meet with the Select Board on November 16 for their approval.

At this point we are considering including the following trails in the grant:

- Burt Orchard
- Town Forest
- Old Center of Town parking and trail
- Langone Road
- Elm Street Cemetery parking

Public Outreach

Cabot Chronicle articles are due November 15 and we will try to include an article.

Review Draft Rules of Procedure

The committee reviewed the draft document. Some amendments will be made, and the draft will be discussed at the December meeting. Changes include:

- Eliminating the office of Vice Chair
- Meetings without a quorum can be held with discussion but no official action taken
- Replace “body” with “committee” wherever it appears
- Article 6 Expenditures – eliminate item 1. Add a new item 2: “Monthly expenditures will be reviewed at each meeting by the Treasurer.”

New Business

Question on whether electric bikes are allowable on trails. The consensus is that they should be allowed, that we check with landowners for permission, and that our trail map and kiosk information specify their allowance or disallowance on a particular trail.