

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021

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

Next Meeting: **April 14, 2021, 7 pm**

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

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of February 10 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Administrative

Gary will report back on remaining budget funds for this year.

Update on Trail Mapping

The trails at Talbert sugarhouse are mapped and the committee reviewed and modified draft versions in Google Maps. We should soon be able to place a hard copy map at the sugarhouse and publicize through Facebook, the town web site, etc. Still need to make a decision on mapping software/app. There was a previous recommendation from Andy that we consider using Trail Forks and we will pursue this.

Trail Use/Etiquette Signage

The Committee further discussed trail etiquette and agreed on the following rules to be publicized at trail heads. Michael will take a first cut at making signs that can be laminated and posted.

- Respect all landowners and property on the trail.
- Stay only on marked trails.
- Keep pets under control and on leash; clean up after your pet.
- Respect other users regardless of sport, speed, or skill level.
- Travel at a safe and reasonable speed.
- Leave no trace.
- No ATVs or dirt bikes.

Trail Updates and Priorities

Talbert Sugarhouse Trails – We need to complete the trail mapping. Chuck will continue to try and contact the landowner adjacent to his property (Roes) for expansion of the trail network. We need to put up additional trail markers in the vicinity of the Elm Street cemetery.

Winter Trail – We do not have permission from Steve and Amy Bothfeld to cross their property. There was discussion about other routes to get from Danville Hill to Cabot Plains, using Urban Rd and the legal trail, then getting landowner permission (Thompson and Williams) to get over to Taylor Rd. These landowners will be contacted.

Chuck proposed that we consider a trail in the village that follows the old snowmobile trail on the Guzman property, crossing the river by the stores in the village and coming back out through the meadow adjacent to the rec fields. It was agreed that Chuck would initiate the discussion with the Guzman's.

Chuck proposed that we map out and publicize various scenic trails on our back roads that would attract bikers. It was agreed that we do this.

Town Forest – Agreed that we work on completing the loop trail and finding better year-round access to Town Forest, which may involve using the Town Garage property for parking and access through one additional property.

Chuck proposed that we continue to pursue a trail would connect Marshfield and Cabot villages (and could serve as a link between Cross VT Trail and Lamoille Valley Rail Trail). In addition to Chuck's property, this would involve Ameden and Smith properties and town roads to make the connection. It was agreed that Chuck would make the landowner contacts.

Hooker Mountain – this will involve three landowners and will be pursued with some initial contacts.

It was agreed that committee members should post to Facebook to help promote use of the trails.

Chuck commented that he feels that we should not pursue use of abandoned town roads/legal trails due to adjacent landowner concerns.