

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

Present: Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Chuck Talbert, Paul Wade, Michael Socks, Gwen Hallsmith, Richard Hourihan

Upcoming Meetings:

August 23, 6:30 pm, discussion of letter of interest for grant

August 28, 9:30 am, kiosk install

September 8, 6:30 pm, regular meeting

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of July 14 approved with following changes: add Michael Socks to members present and delete Chuck Talbert

Public Comment

No public comment

Administrative

No further expenditures in last month

Update on Trail Mapping

Mapping done on Ameden and Gray properties. Loop trails mapped on Town Forest Trails.

Trail Updates and Priorities

Village Trail – verbal approval with Guzman’s for village Loop Trail from village stores, following the VAST trail through to South Walden Rd. We will work with them on placement of a gate and no trespassing signs where appropriate. There is one wet area that we will need to take care of.

Cross VT – LVRT/Marshfield Village-Cabot Village Linkages – Marked and mapped trails on Ameden and Gray properties. Attempting to meet with Ouweleen to discuss trails to Marshfield Village.

Melissa Jenkins Trail– have verbal OK to use existing network on McQueeney property. Have met with owners of Trautz property to discuss accessing the McQueeney trail network from Cabot Plains Rd.

Hourihan property – will meet with Hourihan’s on August 12 to look at trail network possibilities

Town Forest – have mapped and marked with flagging tape another loop trail with more moderate slopes. Discussion about seeking alternative access to the forest through the town garage property and others

Cabot Winter Trail – have received a landowner permission form from Eister at the end of Taylor Rd.

Melissa Jenkins Trail – Gary and Paul walked the trails. We need to follow up with Cheryl McQueeney on which of the trails and loops can be part of the trail system and provide her with landowner permission form. Have contacted Katie Trautz and plan on meeting to discuss permission to use a trail on their property that would connect Melissa Jenkins Trail to Cabot Plains Rd.

Hourihan Property – Need to meet with Hourihans to check out trail possibilities.

Williams Property – Still need to contact Robert Williams regarding the linkage between Urban and Taylor Roads.

Trailhead Kiosks

Successfully built the first kiosk on August 7. This will be placed at entrance to Elm Street Cemetery – workday for this is August 28 at 9:30 am.

Recreational Trail Grants

It was agreed by consensus that we should submit a letter of interest for the VOREC grant program offered by VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Several ideas were discussed, including focusing on competing specific trails, materials purchase, tools purchase, safety training and trail building training, marketing the trail network, consultant assistance in laying out best routes for Cross VT/LVRT linkage, establishing a trail steward program, and hiring an administrator to manage some of these aspects during the two-year grant period. There was discussion of how the grant could support trail maintenance like winter grooming for skiing. Gary will seek some answers from the grant administrators regarding landowner permission agreements and five-year commitments, as well as use of grant funds for trail grooming.

It was agreed that we would meet on **August 23, 6:30 pm**, to discuss the letter of interest that must be submitted to VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation by August 27.

New Business

Cabot Creamery sent a letter to the Trails Committee expressing their support for the trail network, in particular biking connections, and willingness to become involved.