

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021

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

Next Meeting: October 13

Kiosk Building: October 9

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of August 11 as written with one typographical correction

Public Comment

No public comment

Administrative

Only minor expenditures for kiosk materials

Update on Trail Mapping

We have been mapping the trails we are working on. Paul is not happy with the Trail Forks app and will investigate a few others like All Trails and report back. Our priority for all completed trails will be to get maps posted at trail kiosks, on the town web site, and on trail apps.

Trail Updates and Priorities

We reviewed Gary's list of ongoing trail work before having a discussion on priorities for the coming two months. November 12 is the last day before deer rifle season, so that is the target end date for our warm weather trail work.

Recent Trail Work

We reviewed some of our recent weekly trail work including the following:

Winter Trail – Relocated trail off Bothfeld's property. We completed most signs and clearing.

Village Loop – signs placed. Lumber for wet area has been dropped of at the trail. Landowner Gilbert has informed us that we place trail signs on his property, he removed them, and we are not welcome on his property.

McQueeney Trautz – We have landowner permission from Trautz. We will need to install a gate on the Cabot Plains end. Flagged trails and loops.

Review of Ongoing Trail Activity

Village Loop Trail

- Kiosk at hardware store; decide on whether kiosk is needed at South Walden Rd side
- Need to resolve property boundaries and rerouting of trail at both ends with landowner permission
- Install gate
- Address wet area

Winter Trail

- Complete signs on Danville Hill end
- Replace existing bridge on Danville Hill side (note: this may be only bridge placed this year to make passable.
- Complete mapping

- Osborne permission
- Eister property – needs clearing work
- Andrews property needs permission and signs
- Decide about kiosks, where and how many

McQueeney/Trautz

- Place signs and color coding for loops
- Gate on Cabot Plains Rd side
- Complete mapping

Talbert Sugarwoods Trail

- Color coding of trail loops and marking of intersections
- ½ Kiosk for placement on sugarhouse
- Trail expansion – Roes

Cross VT/LVRT

- Planning work on both ends and middle
- Meet with landowner Ouweleen in Marshfield
- Do we have Peter Gray permission?

Town Forest

- Loop trail completion, clearing and signs
- Improve parking
- Mapping
- Address winter access issues
- Kiosk

Village Trail Expansion

- Planning for additional trails besides Village Loop such as old village center and route from school to rec fields

Hourihan

- Scoping and planning

Burt Orchard

- Scoping and planning
- Hope to walk the property in the coming weeks

Urban Legal Trail/Taylor Rd Connection

- Need landowner permission from Robert Williams

Priorities in the Coming Months

Dana suggested that we focus on the two or three or four trails that are nearest completion.

Committee members voted on their top three trail priorities. The results were as follows with the number of votes shown:

Talbert Sugarwoods – 6
McCQueeney/Trautz – 4
Winter Trail -4
Village Loop – 3
Town Forest - 1

It was agreed that we would focus on completing these to the extent we can this season, which will include signs, color coding where necessary, mapping, and kiosks. Village loop will be dependent on resolving trail rerouting issues and permissions.

We agreed that we would color code loop trails beginning with Talbert Sugarwoods trails. It was agreed that side trails would be color coded, and the maps would display corresponding colors. We will purchase paint markers to try this out and place colored circles on signs and colored arrows at the intersections using stencils if possible. The main trails will be left uncolored.

Kiosks – We plan to build two half kiosks for Talbert Sugarwoods and possible Village Loop and one full kiosk for McCQueeney/Trautz. No plans yet for Winter Trail until permission is granted by landowner (Osborne, probably). Kiosk building date is October 9, 10 am, at Dana’s house. Note: it is possible that we can install these on same date.

Bridges – It was agreed that we would build one bridge this season to replace the failing/rotting bridge on the Danville Hill side of the Winter Trail.

Recreational Trail Grants

No further update since Letter of Interest submitted on August 27

New Business

None