

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022

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

Next Meeting: March 9

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of January 12 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Administrative

Kris reviewed the committee finances. We currently have \$249.32 remaining in our budget. This does not include a recent expenditure of about \$45 for screws, printing, and lamination. We have \$256.48 remaining in CCA account (from donations) after reimbursing Dana for \$743.52 in purchases. We agreed that we would purchase four additional brochure holders at \$28.50 each.

Kris said that we can purchase from the Den, Plainfield Hardware, Larrabees, and Poulin Lumber by charging to the town, indicating Trails Committee. This way we do not need to pay up front and will not be charged sales tax. We should get a receipt and give to Kris for tracking.

Hours of volunteer work in January:

Kris – 9 hours

Gary – 9 hours

Paul – 2 hours

Chuck – 2 hours

Trail Updates/Priorities/Mapping

Winter Trails– Mapping and trail marking is complete. Up-to-date maps are posted at Menard Rd, Dubray Rd, Danville Hill Rd, and at each end of the Eister Trail. Most of the downed trees have been removed at the end of Dubray Rd. **In the spring we will need to add orange color to the black trail running from the end of Dubray Rd to the beginning of the Langone Trail.**

Need to see if we can get more hemlock slabs from Nate Smith.

Need to remove trail signs on Guzman property.

Purchase four additional brochure holders.

Post trail maps on town web site and Facebook.

Look into getting our trail posted on TrailFinder.

Landowner permission still needed: Paquin, Glinka, Osborne, Hale

Consider checking with town attorney on incorporating public trails on properties with only verbal and not written permission

Meet with Hourihan's to view groomed trails and discuss next steps

Plowing of Trailhead Parking Areas

McQueeney trailhead and Elm Street Cemetery are currently being plowed. It was noted that **we should check with Cemetery Commissioners about parking at the Cabot Plains Cemetery for access to the McQueeney trails.**

Trail Stewards Program

It was agreed that we should discuss at next meeting the role of trail stewards before proceeding further. There was some discussion about the need trail stewards or not at this point, however, the trails network may grow significantly in the coming year.

Advertising on Kiosks

Dana will check with a few local businesses to gauge their interest in advertising on kiosks as a source of revenue for the committee. Gary suggested that advertisers be viewed as "sponsors". We will include this on next month's agenda.

Public Outreach

It was agreed that we should have an article in each issue of the Chronicle. It was agreed that we should widely publicize the grant if we receive it. In a future article, it was suggested that we highlight Rolf Muench and his role in getting a local trails network started.

Trails Committee Vacancy

Four letters of interest were received for the vacancy on the committee. It was agreed that the candidates would be interviewed by a subgroup of the committee, with a goal of selecting a community member at the next meeting to recommend to the Select Board for appointment. **A tentative date of February 27 was selected for interviews via Zoom. Dana will be contacting candidates.**

New Business

Gary participated in a regional meeting with Central VT Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) to discuss formation of a Central VT regional trails alliance or partnership that could help local trails groups with various aspects of trail development and marketing. There was general support to bring trail organizations together to further discuss. CVRPC has offered to host quarterly meetings over the next year, with the first meeting this spring.

Gary met with Amanda Otto who is implementing youth programs at the Cabot Library. She was interested in involving high school students in volunteer trail activities which would help them in meeting their community service requirements for graduation. The committee agreed that we have interest in pursuing this. One idea suggested by Michael is to have students become trail stewards for the trail to the old center of town. **Gary will follow up with Amanda.**

Molly's Falls Pond State Park – Gary communicated with the Park Manager, who is a seasonal employee with Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation, about a meeting to discuss status of park development. The Park Manager is checking in with her supervisors in the Department, about their participation, and she will be getting back in touch with Gary.

Michael is in possession of the trails banner that was used on Fourth of July.