

Cabot Trails Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2023

Members Present: Dana Glazier, Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Michael Socks, Paul Wade, Monique Gerbex  
Public Present: Lori Augustyniak, Bill Pendergraft

Next Meeting: **June 21**

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of May 17 approved as written.

Public Comment

None

Poetry on the Trails

Bill Pendergraft presented on the Burlington Writers Project and the concept of creating a poetry path on our Cabot trails network. Bill explained and provided a video on the Burlington poetry path and the use of hand painted plastic plaques with short poems that were hung from trees. They were displayed in Burlington last year, taken down in October, and displayed in libraries over the winter. The signs could be available for our use this summer if we are interested. Bill proposed a Cabot-centric effort next year, where poems are solicited from town members, selected, and then displayed on a trail. He would be willing to do the planning for this with some help from committee members. There was support for doing this. Bill will send some of his planning thoughts to the committee in the next week or two. Monique will contact the teacher at Hazen Union in Hardwick who worked with students to create a poetry path on their trails, to learn more about their process. Dana suggested that there be an event where selected poets are present on the trail for a day, and then plaques continue to be displayed. Lori suggested that there are ways this can be promoted through the Cabot Chronicle and other means. Dana and Gary will be contacts for Bill on this project.

Administrative Matters

Purchase of brush mower has been made. Dana and Gary will pick up this Friday. Dana has gathered information on trailers and prices.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 7

Dana – 18

Chuck –

Monique – 11.5

Paul – 7

Gary – 29

Michael – 8

## Trails Updates and Review Workplan/Timeline

### *Trails Grant Related Tasks*

Project Team Meeting - Lori has sent out an introductory email to grant project team members. **We will set the first meeting in June.** Gary has contacted Mike Hogan and he was agreeable to have Select Board representation. For now, we will include Mike Hogan on the invite list.

Parking Improvements – We should not need state or local permits for parking areas. We now have a better idea of parking at Burttt’s Orchard by the sugarhouse. On the timeline we will move bid preparation to June. We may want to look at the Burttt Orchard parking separately and not include with bids on other parking areas, since it is in a different budget category under the trails grant. **Dana and Gary plan to go out to each of the parking areas to further scope out the specs.**

Langone and Eister Trails – **These need to be remapped. Paul and Dana will schedule to go out next week and let Lori know so she can join.** We discussed the wet area on the Eister trail and will have future discussion on how to address. If we wish to make this trail year-round we will have to consider some type of board walk.

Old Center Trail – Need to begin work on this trail. **Gary will be in contact with Michael, Dana, Kris, and Monique to schedule a date to go out and begin work. Gary will contact Steve Hogan to let him know of our plans.**

Burttt’s Orchard – Bid request is out for fence and gate installation and trail landscaping work. Site visit for interested bidders is scheduled for this Friday at 4:30 pm. Bids are due on May 24. Fencing materials and gates are ordered through Farm-Way. **Gary said that this trail will need additional work by volunteers – committee members and possibly some trail stewards.** We are targeting trail work to be done by the end of July.

Town Forest – see discussion under Non-grant Related Tasks.

Cabot Village – **Will discuss temporary trail map in village with the grant project team.**

### *Non-Grant Related Tasks:*

LVRT – **Local concerns meeting with consultant scheduled for May 24, 6 pm.** Meeting is in St. Johnsbury and remotely via Zoom. Gary has posted a flyer and announced on Front Porch Forum and encourages committee members to attend.

Cabot Chronicle – Article for June edition has been submitted. **Ideas for July issue (due June 15) include trail steward solicitation, updates on new trails, and feature on Town Forest. Lori will circulate a draft of trail article that focuses on trail stewards. We can add other information to this.**

Volunteer Service Agreements – Agreements for committee members to sign have been emailed by Lori. **These should be signed and returned to Lori,** and then they go to the Town Clerk. We will have separate agreements for trail stewards.

Talbert's to Cross Vermont Trail – no further response from landowner (Sainz) on permission. For now, we should assume that the trail will use the roads from Ameden's – Ducharme Rd, Carpenter Rd, Brook Rd, and Creamery Rd. In the future, we would need to get permission of the town of Marshfield for wayfinding signs along the town roads.

Town Forest - Monique and Paul mapped. **Need to complete trail blazes and complete map.** This should be a priority since most of the work is done. Future work that is not a priority now is connector trails on adjacent properties. **We need to continue to explore alternative access to Town Forest through municipal garage site and one landowner (Cookson). Gary will have a discussion with Mike Hogan on how best to proceed.**

McQueeney Trails – Kris and Dana walked the trails, and they are in good shape. **We need to decide on a gate to purchase after July 1, when we have spending authority, and try to get it in place soon so that mowing can take place.**

Glinka Trail – See discussion above on Old Center Trail

Rec Field to Burt's Connector – not a priority currently due to other work. Completion dates on timeline have been removed.

#### Project Administrator Tasks

We discussed the following tasks that Lori has been assigned to work on:

- Quarterly Project Team meetings
- Landowner appreciation events
- Zoning permits – **in the process of getting zoning permits for kiosks.**
- Walk the trails
- Trail steward program
- Volunteer Service Agreements
- Trail Finder – **Lori will contact Upper Valley Trails Alliance (site administrator) for info on getting permissions to add trails on our own**
- Chronicle articles
- Grant progress reports
- LVRT business survey
- Web site – The town is developing new site. **We will focus on further developing this and not necessarily creating a separate trails web site.**

#### Trail Maps and Apps

**Lori will gather info on Trail Finder (see discussion above).**

Monique mentioned that some residents are having difficulty locating trails when just using our trail maps. Paul suggested they use Google Maps. We can try to make an effort to clarify this. We already include roads names in the area for reference.

### Public Outreach

See previous discussion under Cabot Chronicle

### New Business

**Kris plans on ordering another batch of trail signs, probably 500, depending on quantity discounts.**

Talbert Farm (pink trail) from Elm Street Cemetery to Talbert sugarhouse may not be on Mitchell property. Need to verify this. **Paul will check with his phone app for property boundaries. If this trail is on another landowner's property and we do not have permission, we will have to discontinue this trail.**

**Dana will schedule another kiosk workday. Paul and Gary will participate.**

We discussed Town Clerk concerns about ordering materials from businesses with which we have an account. **We will make efforts to do this, and where it is not possible, we will make sure that all invoices are made out to Trails Committee, Town of Cabot.**