

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023

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

Next Meeting: **February 15**

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of December 14 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

\$1600 was expended on chainsaw training for four members. This expense is reimbursable under the trails grant.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 21

Dana – 21

Chuck – 2

Monique – 22

Paul – 2

Gary – 26

Michael – 7

Trails Updates, Update on Action Items

The following action items from last month were completed:

- At next meeting we will have a timeline for grant-related and non-grant related work. Michael will take the lead on drafting.
- Chuck will informally check with the four landowners about permission for a trail from Pat DiStefano on South Walden Rd to Stefanie Caffin on Rt 215.
- Chuck will place the grade stakes (purple trail marking) in the middle of his field for the winter.
- We will re-evaluate the draft Town Forest map and the individual-colored trails.

Calendar of Grant- and Non-Grant Related Tasks

We reviewed the newly created calendar of tasks that will be reviewed and updated for each meeting. We expect that there will be changes made to both tasks and completion date from month to month.

There are large number of tasks that we need to begin soon, and we will be looking to committee members to assist with some of these – examples include project/grant administrator job description and hiring process; parking area bidding and contracting; volunteer service agreement; and Burrtt Orchard trail implementation.

Chuck asked if we have ability to amend the grant if we find that there have been cost increases that affect what we can accomplish with funds. We will have flexibility to make modifications.

Voigt Property – a small number of cows will continue to be pastured on the Voigt property and we will need to provide some fencing for separation. Plan is to work on this in the spring.

Ouweleen meeting – We hope to meet in February

Cabot Village Map – it was agreed that we should place a temporary trail map or kiosk in the village, until such time as we get a permanent large kiosk in place – targeted for 2024.

Grant Update

We have responded to Dept. of Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation regarding the questions they had about our grant application. They are currently reviewing our submission and will get back to us with any further questions. Gary said that optimistically, we will have a final grant agreement to present to the Select Board in February.

The LVRT grant awarded by Agency of Transportation to the six towns (St. J to Hardwick) to develop trail parking options, an amenities plan, a safety plan, and wayfinding to points of interest is being discussed. Next meeting is on January 17. The first step is to develop an RFP and then a contract for the work. Gary is attending monthly meetings.

Trail Maps and Apps

Chuck will continue to reach out to Upper Valley Trails Alliance to find out more about Trail Finder.

Public Outreach

Gary will prepare trails update for the next issue of the Cabot Chronicle.

New Business

Gary mentioned that the Conservation Committee is sponsoring a winter animal tracking outing on February 19 (inclement weather alternate date of February 26). They would like to hold the event on one of our trails – either McQueeney or Winter Trail.