

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022

Members Present: Dana Glazier, Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Monique Gerbex, Chuck Talbert, Michael Socks
Next Meeting: November 9

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of September 14 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Kris reviewed expenditures. We have exceeded our annual budget by \$670. We thought we were budgeted \$2500, but as it turns out, our budget is \$1250. When the grant funds arrive, we will reimburse any expenses that are grant related – all the tools and equipment are reimbursable under the grant. We are scheduled for a Select Board budget meeting on October 31, 4:30 pm. We will request \$2000 for next year.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 15

Dana – 8

Chuck – 6

Monique – 2

Paul – 5

Gary – 10

Michael – 8

Trails Update

The following To Do List was reviewed:

Grant-Related

- Finalize grant agreement – November **Get on Select Board agenda for review and approval of grant agreement**
- Tool and equipment purchase – mostly complete. **Purchase chainsaw sharpening guide.**
- Langone Trail – Redo map; add scenic loop; **Kris and Gary to mark and map loop trail**
- Old Center of Town Trail – on hold
- Parking improvements at Elm St, Town Forest, and Old Center- prepare bid materials (spring)
- Establish trail steward program and trail monitoring/trail usage
- Contact grant project team and schedule first meeting – on hold
- Order fencing materials for Burt Orchard trail – measurements have been made but on hold until the grant agreement is finalized. Generate map of fencing location. **Meet with Greg Burt in November and get bids on fencing and gates.**
- Advertise for grant administrative assistant – on hold until we receive grant and review budget
- Game of Logging Chainsaw Training – on hold
- Explore village kiosk location and design – on hold

Non-Grant Related

- Work on connecting trails from Talbert's to Cross VT Trail – meet with Ouwellen and other landowners; establish route through Voigt property; **flag Voigt trail; send conceptual trail map to Ouweleen's and then meet to discuss (Chuck, Kris)**
- Complete re-route of Winter Trail on Eister property – **schedule workday this weekend if possible**
- Complete loop trails in Town Forest; cleanup on access road to trailhead
- McQueeney trail repairs – on hold until we look at drainage in the spring. Also road erosion near parking area needs a fix.
- McQueeney Trails – install metal locking gate at Trautz end
- Connect Dubray to Cabot Plains to McQueeney – signage
- Kiosk advertising/sponsorship – on hold
- Monthly Chronicle articles – **possible article on LVRT**
- Continue to evaluate plowing and mowing needs
- Meet with Ian Ackermann for connection to Burt's – on hold
- Attend LVRT meetings – grant application due in November; **meet with Select Board on Oct. 18**
- Liability issues/waivers – follow up with town and insurer – **Meet with VLCT insurance person on Oct 26**

Priorities for Trail Work

Complete Winter Trail on Eister property

Flag Voigt trail

Complete conceptual trail map, send to Ouweleens, and meet

Mark Langone loop trail

Meet with Greg Burt in November and get bids on fencing and gates

Grants Update

Recreational Trails Grant - Draft grant agreement is expected in late October. **We will meet with the Select Board in November to finalize agreement.**

LVRT Grant - A consortium of towns from St. J to Hardwick are working on a grant application to create an amenities plan and assess/identify areas for parking. The grant requires a 20% match. It is estimated that each town would contribute \$2600 in matching funds. **Gary will meet with the Select Board on October 18 to discuss town support for the LVRT application.**

Outdoor Gear Exchange Grant - An application was submitted to Outdoor Gear Exchange with the Cabot Library for \$2000 to support purchasing snowshoes and ski equipment and a small storage. We are supposed to hear back on October 15.

Tool and Equipment Purchase

Tools have been purchased, including two drills, two backpacks, chainsaw, string trimmer and blade attachment, saws, loppers, and first aid kits. Tools are being stored in Kris' garage. **Need to purchase chainsaw sharpening guide.**

Public Outreach

We will draft an article on LVRT for November issue of Cabot Chronicle.

Trail Apps and Maps

Chuck and Paul will discuss our progress with trail apps and next steps.

New Business

Chuck mentioned alternative trail route from village to Cabot Plains may be along VAST trail on South Walden Rd in the village, involving three landowners. We will explore this further next year.

Kris mentioned that trail log at Elm Street Cemetery has been used repeatedly by one person and that there was only one entry from another group of trail users.

Dana said that he will circulate a proposal on landowner appreciation for next meeting.

Summary of Action Items

Complete work on Eister trail re-route with possible workday on Oct. 15

Finalize grant agreement and meet with Select Board

Purchase chainsaw sharpening guide

Langone Trail – mark loop trail

Flag trail on Voigt property

Send conceptual trail map to Ouweleen's and then meet to discuss (Chuck, Kris)

Meet with Select Board on October 31 to discuss next year budget request

Meet with VLCT insurance person to discuss liability and waivers on October 26

Meet with the Select Board on October 18 to discuss town support for the LVRT application

Chronicle article on LVRT

Chuck and Paul will discuss our progress with trail apps and next steps.

Dana said that he will circulate a proposal on landowner appreciation for next meeting

Meet with Greg Burt in November and get bids on fencing and gates