

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022

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

Next Meeting: **January 11**

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of November 9 approved without changes

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

No expenditures since last meeting. We now have permission to make purchases that are grant-related (with prior approval), until such time as the trails grant is finalized. Kris will add a new tab in the spreadsheet to track grant-related expenses.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 10

Dana – 10

Chuck – 4

Monique – 3

Paul – 3

Gary – 16

Michael – 8

Trails Update

The following To Do List was reviewed:

Grant-Related

- Get grant finalized and signed at Jan 3 SB meeting (hopefully)
- Tool and equipment purchase – mostly complete until spring
- Langone Trail – Redo gpx and map; make benches; discuss scenic overlook area with landowner; discuss permanent trail location with landowner – spring
- Old Center Trail – Gleb Glinka contacted for landowner permission; awaiting response
- Parking improvements at Elm St, Town Forest, and Old Center/Langone- prepare bid materials (spring)
- Chainsaw training – Dec. 15-16
- Advertise for grant administrative assistant and prepare contract – Jan-Feb
- Landowner appreciation event – on hold; later next year
- Explore village kiosk location and design – spring/summer

- Burt Orchard – get quotes/bids on materials – Feb-March; meet with Burt's to finalize plans; go out to bid on installation – Feb- March
- Contact grant project team and schedule first meeting – Jan-Feb
- Kiosks – build kiosks – summer/fall (Old Center, Dubray, Langone)

Non-Grant Related

- Work on connecting trails from Talbert's to Cross VT Trail – meet with Ouweleen; determine trail route through Voigt
- Draft Volunteer Service Agreement– for Committee members and volunteers; review of draft by VLCT and town – complete in spring
- Town Forest Trails – complete trail map; complete trail blazes; explore connecting trails and contact landowners – spring/summer
- McQueeney trail repairs – on hold until we look at drainage in the spring. Road erosion near parking area needs a fix.
- McQueeney Trails – install metal locking gate at Trautz end this spring
- Connect Dubray to Cabot Plains to McQueeney – place signage this spring/summer
- Replenish maps at kiosks as needed
- Plowing at Elm Street Cemetery – Chuck to check with Don Mitchell
- Kiosk advertising/sponsorship – on hold
- Monthly Chronicle articles;
- Continue to evaluate plowing and mowing needs
- Meet with Ian Ackermann for connection to Burt's – summer/fall
- LVRT grant – attend biweekly meetings
- Determine if trail near Rec Field to Burt's is possible (starting on DiStefano property on South Walden Rd

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.

Monique mentioned that brush was cut on the side of the gate on the McQueeney trails on the Cabot Plains end. We do not know why this was done and should find out before we install a metal gate.

Chuck said that Don Mitchell will be plowing by Elm Street Cemetery like last year.

Grant Update

We have responded to Dept. of Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation regarding the questions they had about our grant application. We are hoping to get a final draft grant agreement that we can bring to the Select Board in January.

A LVRT grant was 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 that are off the trail. Gary is attending monthly meetings. The next step is to hire a consultant to do the work.

Trail Maps and Apps

Chuck thinks that the best way to advertise our trail network is on Trail Finder. This is not an app but a web site that has a large inventor of trails in Vermont and NH. Content would be under our control and not crowdsourced like many of the apps. **Chuck will follow up with the administrator of Trail Finder to get more information on the process of posting trails. Gary will check with the LVRT group of towns on experience with trail apps.**

Public Outreach

A trail update article for the Cabot Chronicle was submitted. **Chuck said he would periodically post on Facebook and to send him any messaging to post.**

Annual Review of Rules of Procedure and Election of Officers

Rules of Procedure were readopted without changes.

The following were elected as officers:

Dana – Chair

Kris – Treasurer

Gary – Secretary

New Business

Dana said that he is willing to have his driveway by his garage serve as parking for the Winter Trail. There was consensus that this happens. We can have signs to designate parking and where not to park and designate the parking on the trail map.