

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022

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

Next Meeting: August 10

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of June 8 approved without changes.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Kris reviewed expenditures. Paint purchases of \$11.98 and purchase of clipboards and waterproof paper of \$53.25. These expenses will be taken out of Trails Committee budget.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 21

Dana – 10

Chuck – to be determined

Monique – to be determined

Paul – 4

Gary – 8.5

Michael – 4

Grant Update

Nothing to report. Draft grant agreement has not yet been received.

Trail Use Logs – Review Draft-

-Change City/State to Home City/State Province/Country

-Add cabotvermont.org web site and cabotvttrails@gmail.com in top section of log

-It was agreed that we should proceed to place the trail user logs at the kiosks using the brochure holders.

Kiosk Sponsorship /Advertising

It was agreed that in lieu of kiosk sponsorship by businesses for the time being, we can post the Map of Cabot destinations (both sides) on the kiosks. Although the map leaves off some of our trails, it is a user-friendly map of Cabot businesses and destinations with a QR code that provides further information on the destinations. The back side describes the eating establishments. It was suggested that in the future we can have the map's artist modify the map to include all of our trails (using grant money).

Trail Mowing and Parking

Gary has not yet checked with the Trautz's about establishing a few parallel parking spots near the McQueeney trailhead on Cabot Plains Rd. It is not clear whether off-road parking is necessary and whether parking on the side of the road will suffice. Gary believes that we should designate parking on the trail map since it is a more convenient way to access the trail. Perhaps check with Select Board and Road Commissioner.

McQueeney Trail Mowing Request – Cheryl McQueeney indicated to a trail member that she was interested in compensation of \$200 for trail mowing. This past winter she paid \$50 for plowing of the parking area but was not looking for compensation for this. Kris talked to her about the mowing and was told that her mower is being repaired. Cheryl told Kris that she needed to talk with her handyman, Rigg, about the mowing and would get back in touch with Kris, but she hasn't gotten back in touch. Gary moved that the Committee compensate Cheryl up to \$250 for mowing and plowing for the current year. He said that we do not have our own mower at this point to keep the trail maintained and that 3.5 miles is a lot of trail to maintain. Paul seconded the motion. Dana suggested that we wait until Cheryl contacts the Committee. If we are to approve this, he would like to see an itemized invoice for the work and suggested that at our next meeting we discuss a policy on compensation for mowing and plowing. Michael was concerned that that compensating the landowner might affect the waiver of landowner liability in statute – the landowner being paid for use of the trail. He suggested we review the statute. Paul said that if we paid Rigg directly for the mowing then there would be no direct landowner compensation. Question as to whether a contract would be needed. Concern expressed about liability if the person mowing was injured. **Kris and Dana agreed to go to the town clerk's office tomorrow (Thursday) to see if we could discuss the liability issue for trail committee members, volunteers and others with the Town Clerk and the town's insurer.**

The Committee voted unanimously to table the motion.

Trail Updates and To Do List

The following list was discussed:

Grant-Related

- Finalize grant agreement
- Tool and equipment purchase – see discussion below
- Winter access to Town Forest – meet with Paquins for permission
- Complete loop trails in Town Forest
- Meet with Steve Hogan to review Old Center of Town signage and gates – **Gary to call Steve again**
- Establish trail steward program and trail monitoring/trail usage – trail user log discussed above
- Contact grant project team and schedule first meeting – **will probably wait until grant is finalized**
- Order fencing materials for Burt Orchard's trail – measurements have been made but on hold until the grant agreement is finalized. It was suggested that we may need to walk the trail and generate a map of the complete trail.
- Advertise for grant administrative assistant – on hold until we receive grant and review budget
- Chainsaw training – **follow up with Will Ameden – one or two-day training?** There are at least three sets of safety gear (chaps and hard hats/face shields) that could be provided to the members interested in the training.
- Explore village kiosk location and design – on hold

Non-Grant Related

- Repaint trail signs – McQueeney Trails and Talbert Farm trails are complete. **Parts of the Winter Trail are not complete. Langone Rd trail needs to be re-painted**
- Work on connecting trails from Talbert's to Cross VT Trail – meet with Ouwellens; other landowners
- McQueeney trail repairs – **on hold until we look at drainage in the spring**
- Hemlock slabs – where to place – on hold; could be used on McQueeney trails if appropriate
- Parking at Cabot Plains/Trautz – **explore options, see discussion above**
- Connect Old Center with Langone – signage; **Gary will find out VTrans guidelines that may be applicable**
- Connect Dubray to Cabot Plains to McQueeney – signage; **Gary will find out VTrans guidelines that may be applicable**
- Kiosk advertising/sponsorship – **see discussion above**
- Monthly Chronicle articles – **see discussion below**
- Continue to evaluate plowing and mowing needs – **see discussion above**
- Meet with Ian Ackermann for connection to Burt's – on hold
- Follow up with Hourihans – on hold
- Re-route Winter Trail on Eister property – **Paul will check with David Eister to schedule a half day work day to clear the re-route area**
- Re-route Winter Trail on Deasy property – **Dean and Karen said they would flag the trail re-route around sugaring equipment. Then we can go out and re-mark the trail and do any necessary clearing.**

Public Outreach

Articles due on July 17; consider an article on trail user logs

Liability Waivers for Trail Committee Members and Volunteers

Kris and Dana agreed to go to the town clerk's office tomorrow (Thursday) to see if we could discuss the liability issue for trail committee members, volunteers and others with the Town Clerk and the town's insurer.

Tool and Equipment Purchase

The Committee had a brief discussion of tool and equipment needs which can be purchased after the grant is finalized. **It was agreed that members should give the list some thought prior to next meeting and it should be an agenda item at next meeting.**

Preliminary Tool and Equipment List

- Backpack with materials for sign installation and minor maintenance– pliers, sledge, bowsaw, folding saw cordless drill, loppers
- Electric chainsaw and electric string trimmer and blade attachment
- Additional sets of loppers, bowsaws, folding saws
- Brush mower
- Trailer

New Business

Add agenda item for next meeting to discuss and plan for landowner appreciation.

Gary mentioned that he attended a second meeting of the LVRT towns receiving grants – St. Johnsbury, Danville, Cabot, and Hardwick. He said that they are looking for funding to improve wayfinding to attractions and destinations off of the LVRT and to improve parking. **Another meeting is scheduled for late July and Gary plans on attending.** He thinks the effort is worthwhile. VTrans is working on a LVRT master plan. Draft is due out this month and the group plans to review.