

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2022

Members Present: Dana Glazier, Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Monique Gerbex, Paul Wade
Members of Public Present: Brian Wagner

Next Meeting: Sept. 14

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of July 13 approved with following changes: add 17.5 hours for Monique and 3 hours for Chuck.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Kris reviewed expenditures. PVC board and aluminum nails from Larrabees, \$47.56; grade stakes from Larrabees, \$22.68; 8 brochure holders from Clear Solutions, \$228.00. To date, this fiscal year we have spent \$364.56 with \$2135.44 remaining in our yearly budget. A total of \$276 remains in our anonymous donation.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 31.5

Dana – 7

Chuck – 4

Monique – 14

Paul – 4

Gary – 21

Michael – 6

Trails Update

The following To Do List was reviewed:

Grant-Related

- Finalize grant agreement
- Tool and equipment purchase – develop inventory and check vendors
- Complete loop trails in Town Forest
- Old Center of Town Trail – decide on location of gate and install
- Establish trail steward program and trail monitoring/trail usage
- Contact grant project team and schedule first meeting – September or October?
- 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. Paul will send Gary gpx files**
- Advertise for grant administrative assistant – on hold until we receive grant and review budget
- Chainsaw training – follow up with Will Ameden
- Explore village kiosk location and design – on hold

Non-Grant Related

- Re-route Deasy and Eister sections of Winter Trail. Possible re-route on Langone – has been completed and trail is completely marked
- Work on connecting trails from Talbert's to Cross VT Trail – meet with Ouwellens and other landowners; re-walk Voigt property. **Need to check with Chuck about re-walking Voigt property. Need to find a map of former ski trails on Ouwellen property and provide to Michael to revise a preliminary map to share with landowners**
- 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 – to be discussed in separate agenda item
- Monthly Chronicle articles – article sent for September edition
- Continue to evaluate plowing and mowing needs
- Meet with Ian Ackermann for connection to Burt's – on hold
- Attend LVRT meetings – **Next meeting Sept. 1. Gary will attend.**

Grant Update

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

Kiosk Sponsorship /Advertising

It was decided that the Cabot Destinations map would not be used on kiosks at this time and that it would be too expensive to redo the map to include all our trails and changes to existing businesses. **We plan to discuss at an upcoming CCA meeting and determine if such a map would be possible through a partnership next year. We would be willing to support it financially in part. It was decided that there would be no further action until the spring and until the fate of the Cabot Destinations map is determined. We will discuss this issue further over the winter.**

Tool and Equipment Purchase

The following tools and equipment were agreed upon for purchase. Dana, Kris and Gary will work as a subcommittee to come up with final details on purchase, share this information with the committee, and then proceed to purchase as soon as possible:

2 Backpacks to carry smaller trails supplies and equipment

2 First Aid kits

2 Loppers

2 Folding saws

2 Bowsaws (possibly folding)

1 Battery-powered weed trimmer with blade attachment

1 Battery-powered drill combo set (impact and regular drill)

1 Battery-powered chain saw

Various small tools – pliers, hammer, screw drivers, drill bits, etc.

We will continue to research on Ryobi, Milwaukee, and Makita battery-powered tools and decide which single brand to purchase, so we have compatible batteries for all the above battery-powered tools. Dana will take the lead on contacting regional tool company representatives to get prices.

We will pursue the purchase of a walk-behind brush mower from DR Power. Dana will take the lead on contacting local distributors and the company for prices. Gary will try to arrange for a demonstration of one of the larger models.

Public Outreach

Gary prepared trails update article with photos for the September issue of the Cabot Chronicle.

Letter of Support for Village Center Designation

The Committee reviewed a draft letter to the Planning Commission for the Town's application for Village Center Designation and approved it with minor edits. **A final version of the letter will be prepared for Dana's signature.**

Volunteers and Trail Stewards – Next Steps

It was decided that we would resolve liability issues with the Town and Cabot School before engaging residents or school students in volunteer trail work. Dana, Kris, and Gary to work with the Town and the Town's insurer to get a better understanding of liability issues. Gary will contact the Cabot School to get a better understanding of liability issues for student volunteers. The liability issue will be an item on next month's agenda. Gary will try to contact other trail organization to see how they handle liability.

Landowner Appreciation

To recognize private landowners for their willingness to provide access for public trails, Dana suggested that we offer Cabot cash certificates to them for Cabot businesses. **This idea of cash certificates was supported in lieu of holding an actual event. Dana will work on a proposal, and we will place this on next month's meeting agenda.** Another suggestion was to also recognize landowners at Town Meeting.

New Business

Dana suggested that we focus our field work in the coming months on those trails and activities not in need of grant funding. This includes getting the Winter Trail prepared – such as any necessary trail clearing, as well as rerouting work that needs to be done. There is also work that can be done in the Town Forest on completing the trail loops and marking trails. Paul suggested that the Town Forest could be a focus for Cabot School student volunteer involvement since it is on town property. **This will be an agenda item for next meeting.**