

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022

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

Next Meeting: October 12

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of August 24 approved with one correction of typographical error.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Kris reviewed expenditures. We had two purchases this past month, a backpack and a 14-foot metal gate. We purchased the gate off an advertisement on Front Porch Forum for \$100. We have almost \$2000 remaining in our annual budget and about \$275 in donations remaining.

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 9

Dana – 6

Chuck – 2

Monique – 8

Paul – 5

Gary – 26

Michael – 4

Trails Update

The following To Do List was reviewed:

Grant-Related

- Finalize grant agreement - November
- Tool and equipment purchase – finalize purchase list; begin purchase process for some
- Langone Trail – Redo map; signage directions to trailhead at Langone Rd driveway; “private” sign
- Complete loop trails in Town Forest
- Old Center of Town Trail – decide on location of gate and install; complete reroute and signage
- Parking improvements at Elm St, Town Forest, and Old Center- prepare bid materials
- 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.
- Advertise for grant administrative assistant – on hold until we receive grant and review budget
- Game of Logging Chainsaw Training
- 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; re-walk Voigt property to find route
- Complete re-route of Winter Trail on Eister property
- 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
- Monthly Chronicle articles – next article due Sept. 17
- Continue to evaluate plowing and mowing needs
- Meet with Ian Ackermann for connection to Burt's – on hold
- Attend LVRT meetings
- Liability issues/waivers – follow up with town and insurer – early October
- Trail Maps for Cabot Foliage Day – Sept. 24

We decided on the following priorities for trail work in the next couple of months:

- **Complete work on Winter Trail, including Eister re-route, trail clearing on Danville Hill Rd end of trail, and signs/mapping at Langone Rd end. Work on Danville Hill Rd end of trail on Sept. 16. We need to schedule a work day for Eister property. We can do this through email.**
- **Old Center of Town trail – work on getting landowner permission for trail use. Meet with Steve Hogan prior to contacting the landowner (Glinka).**
- **By next meeting, be prepared to have communications with the Ouwellens about a possible trail route to Marshfield Village from their property. We will look for old ski trail map and provide to Michael if we find it. Michael will work on a map.**
- **Gary to contact Chuck to see if he can seek a trail route through Voigt property.**
- **Chainsaw safety training**

Grant Update

Draft grant agreement is expected in late October. We will have two weeks to finalize the agreement in November.

Tool and Equipment Purchase

It was agreed that we will purchase Ryobi cordless chainsaw, string trimmer and brush cutter attachment. We will begin ordering and purchasing the tools and equipment. We will not take any action on a walk behind brush cutter since we will not have grant funding until November the earliest.

Public Outreach

We will draft an article on the Winter Trail for the October edition of the Cabot Chronicle.

Liability Issues for Trail Work

We plan to meet with the town's insurer in early October to discuss liability and waivers for trail work.

Landowner Appreciation

Dana has proposed a “Cabot Cash” card for landowners involved in the trail network. **Dana will talk to store owners, and we will then finalize an approach.** Paul said it should be fairly straightforward – that Trails Committee can have an account with stores and they can be reimbursed this way.