

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023

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

Next Meeting: **September 20**

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of June 21 approved. Dana mentioned that our yearly total of volunteer hours (valued at a volunteer rate of \$30.04) amounted to the equivalent of just under \$20,000.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Volunteer hours for the month:

Kris – 10

Dana – 10

Chuck – 6

Monique – 11.5

Paul - 6

Gary – 14

Michael – 4

Budget for the year starting July 1 is \$2000. There have been some expenditures, but **Kris and Gary need to meet to allocate them to grant and non-grant related expenses.**

Flood Recovery Grants

We applied through the town for a \$500 grant for trail repairs on town property. Lori said that the Recreation Committee was awarded a grant, so she believes that the Trails Committee would be eligible. She said that we should hear soon.

We should encourage landowners who have trails to apply for flood recovery grants.

Assessment of Trail Conditions

We reviewed the assessment that was developed last month. The Talbert Farm Trails on Mitchell's property received the most damage. It has been too wet to do any work. **The stream that jumped its banks can probably be redirected back to its channel with some hand shovel work. We should schedule a workday.**

Trails Updates and Review Workplan/Timeline

Trails Grant Related Tasks

It was suggested that we delay the purchase of any new tools for the time being.

Parking area bids – Hold off this year and schedule the work for next year.

It was suggested that we discuss an extension of the grant with VT Forests, Parks, & Recreation. Gary and Dana will arrange a call with them.

Landowner Appreciation – **On schedule for October. Dana, Lori, and Gary will discuss. Lori will see if there is anyone from the Project Team that has ideas on this.**

Langone Trail – **Need to do mapping of this trail and Eister trail but given that the upper part of Langone Trail is washed out in places, we need to first talk to landowner about the future of the trail in that area.**

Paul will develop plans for benches. One bench needs to be placed on Langone Trail.

Old Center Trail has problems at both ends. **Gary will contact Mike Hogan to see if Old Center Rd is on the inventory of damaged infrastructure that will be submitted to FEMA.**

Burt's Orchard Trail – All trail materials are now secured. **The plan is to construct the trail in November.**

Town Forest – Hold off on placing a kiosk until the parking area improvements are made.

Cabot Village kiosk – No need for a temporary kiosk. We will stay with our plan of a permanent village kiosk next year.

Non-Grant Related Tasks

Update on LVRT – Trail is open from St. J to Walden Heights and from Swanton to Cambridge. The section between Johnson and Greensboro Bend is in bad shape and will likely not open until next year. Our Regional LVRT group is still working on a conceptual plan for amenities, wayfinding, and parking. Parking in the vicinity of Bricketts Crossing may be the best option for the area if land for a parking area can be acquired. Lori has a list of landowners in the area to contact.

Cabot Chronicle Articles – Not always appropriate for time sensitive information, but good for updates and accountability as we are a part of town government.

Voluntary Service Agreements – **There are still outstanding Volunteer Service Agreements. Get them in to Lori!**

Talbert Farm Trails to Cross Vermont Trail Connector – Town roads through Marshfield will be used to connect. **Trail across Voigt property should be worked on this summer after checking with Voigts.**

Chuck will be meeting next month with adjacent landowner David Roes to discuss adjoining trails to Talbert Farm.

Town Forest – **sign needed at end of Red Trail either indicating End of Trail or Private.**

Alternate (Winter) Access to Town Forest – **Need to contact landowner (Grace Cookson) regarding permission to access through her property. A meeting should be scheduled. Kris and Monique have been nominated to talk with her and Dana has agreed to attend.**

McQueeney Trails – **Wooden gate at Cabot Plains end should suffice for now since we are now mowing with brush mower that can maneuver around a fixed gate.**

Glinka Portion of Old Center Trail – **Chuck will contact Caleb Martin about the damaged VAST bridge and Dana will contact someone in the main office.**

Need to finalize order of metal signs (two of each): Dogs on Leash, Stay on Trail, and Trail Closed During Deer Rifle Season.

Trail Maps, Apps and Social Media

Chuck and Dana will take the lead on Facebook and Cabot Connects. Seth O'Brien has joined the Project Team and will help us with social media. Bryce is working on TrailFinder and is preparing a guide for social media. Gary will be meeting with Bryce to get photos of trails to use on TrailFinder.

New Business

New kiosks on hold for now. Dana will keep the unassembled materials until needed.

Lori mentioned the possibility of a fall foliage guided hike. McQueeney Trails could be used for a foliage hike, and the Conservation Committee may be able to assist.

Dana, Gary, and Bill Pendergraft will meet with Cabot School to discuss their participation in a poetry trail. There will also be a discussion of liability issues and the feasibility of Cabot High School students participating in trail work for their community service hours.