

Cabot Trails Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023

Present: Dana Glazier, Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, Michael Socks, Monique Gerbex, Chuck Talbert, Lori Augustyniak, Laura McCaffrey

Next Meeting: December 26

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of October 18 approved with one typographical change.

Public Comment

Laura McCaffrey of the Vermont Afterschool Program discussed Cabot School's grant that supports activities for students that they get to choose through voting. Since there has been student interest in establishing a bike pump track in town, she wanted to contact the Trails Committee to inquire about any connection to this and bike trails in general. Grant funds can be used for equipment, tools, signs, etc., but cannot be used for construction costs. Projects need to be identified by January and completed before September 30, 2024. **Dana said that he would discuss with the executive committee and get back in touch to explore if there is any way that the Trails Committee can partner with the school.**

Administrative Matters

There have been no recent expenses. Our first grant reimbursement request to VT Forests, Parks & Recreation was submitted for \$22,830.

Volunteer Hours

Gary - 9

Dana – 10

Monique – 2

Kris -13

Michael – 4

Chuck – 8

Paul – 2

We have changed our meeting date to the fourth Tuesday of the month due to scheduling conflicts. Next meeting will be December 26.

Trail Updates and Review Workplan

Grant Related

Project Team meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 4:30. Lori will be sending out an agenda and Zoom link. The agenda includes update on trail status, landowner appreciation, kiosk location in village, social media, outreach to the community, and any suggestions that Project Team members may have.

Parking area improvements – Parking by the Elm Street cemetery kiosk and Town Forest are the only improvements currently planned. We currently do not have access to the Town Forest from the Town Garage and will not pursue parking at the Town Garage unless we gain the necessary landowner permission. Parking improvements at the Old Center of Town are not supported by the Select Board. **We plan to issue an RFP in the spring.**

Bench design – Paul will refine a bench design that he presented by adding back to the bench. We need to decide on the type of lumber we will use.

Langone Trail – We had a discussion with the landowner about trail damage and possible rerouting of the trail. The landowner does not see a need to reroute.

Old Center Trail – Old Center Road damage will be included in a Flood Recovery grant that we are planning to submit to VT Forests, Parks, & Recreation in December. Kris will try to find out about the status of the VAST bridge behind the Willey Building and any plan to repair the gap on the uphill side of the bridge.

Burt's Orchard Trail – Trail work in November has been postponed until spring. **The contract end date will need to be amended.**

Non-Grant Related

Volunteer Service Agreements – Lori is continuing to check with Betty to see what is on file for Trails Committee members.

Paul said that McQueeney Trails has had 50,000 views on Google Maps.

Trail Maps and Apps

Gary needs to get trail photos from Bryce and Lori and will work on getting our trails on the Trail Finder web site.

Public Outreach/Social Media

Lori is reviewing the draft social media guide that Bryce is preparing, and we can review and discuss the guide at our next meeting.

Lori will try to pull together a social media subcommittee to help with implementing a social media presence on Instagram, Facebook, etc. Chuck has agreed to be on this subcommittee.

Dana will contact Sonia Scherr at Cabot School to see if there are any students interested in being a part of this subcommittee for community service credit.

Landowner Appreciation

It was agreed that landowner appreciation will consist of the following efforts:

- **An ad in the December Cabot Chronicle thanking landowners. A draft was reviewed. Lori will revise and send out for final comment before sending to the Chronicle.**

- **A Thank You letter from the Trails Committee**
- **An acknowledgment from the Cabot Select Board**

Lori will find quotes from trail users in the trail logbooks that can be used in the Thank You letter.

It was suggested that landowners be recognized at Town Meeting.