

**Revised MINUTES**  
**Trails Committee**  
**April 4, 2016**

Attending: Norma & Ron Wiesen, Lenore & Wayne Renaud, Gail Johnson, Judy Bellairs, Sue Trecartin, Emmett Avery, Doug McClure, Matt Jerome, Eric Remick, Jessica Manchester, Alex Utevsky

Guest: Rep. Chip Troiano, Joe Brosseau, Sarah Morgan, Michael Bielawski, *The Gazette*

1. **Financials.** Balance in general fund is \$3,247.96, in the capital fund is \$5,489.62. We have money in everything but programs and activities. We're doing well with equipment repairs, almost \$1,200 in salaries. Everything looks good.
2. **Trail Conditions.** Trails are very muddy in spots; frozen hard this week.
3. **Minutes.** Lenore moved the Minutes of March 7th; Ron seconded. Approved.

4. **Spring Festival, May 28:**

Fun Run. Sarah Morgan: The start and finish are at the Hardwick Inn. We can still have the children do the 1K loop downtown. The 5K walkers and runners would head up to the Trails. The route starts at the Tech Center parking lot; it's just over 5K. Katharine Ingram and boys, and Norma Spaulding have volunteered to work on this. Sarah suggests that proceeds should be modest but shared by Kids on the Move and the Trails. Tentatively, if the parade is at 11:00, the 1K and walkers should start at 8:30 and the 5K at 9:00. Norma will make posters. Other volunteers: Matt, Alex, Wayne, Eric, Sue, Jessica

Bike Ride on Trails. Emmett: General, open ride in the afternoon. Need flyers, publicity.

Bird Walks. Four in May; birders are lined up. It starts at 7:00 and is over by 9:00; no conflict on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Friends of Hardwick Elementary School Run, May 15. Registration at 8:15, run starts at 9:00; they will take down all their signs and ribbons this year, preferably right after the run.

Brainstorm and plan events throughout the summer—something for very small children, something for seniors, for other groups we haven't targeted. Volunteers: Norma W., Gail

5. **Trails Survey.** Need volunteers to sit down and comb through results and plan. The group would come to the next meeting with the issues that arise and possible actions. Then we need to go to press so that the people who took the time to fill out the survey will know we have acted on it. Volunteers: Lenore, Gail, Norma W.
6. **Follow-up** on gun shots. Hardwick Police Officer Tatreault worked with Gail to her satisfaction.
7. **Bike Instructor Course.** Chris Ingram would like to take a bike instructor training course to be certified to teach and teach children. He is interested in starting a program here with children on the Trails after his course finishes. Ron asked about insurance, whether him being certified would cover that. He needs help in finding money for the course. Rec Committee doesn't have any money left. Would the Trails be interested in contributing? We don't have any in that category, but perhaps we could shift. Ron forwarded his inquiry to REACH and Nicole was very interested. It might even then become part of the REACH program. Emmett will take a look at the bikes to see if they need work. Perhaps Kids on the Move could contribute. Chris has talked to Katherine Lovinsky's husband who has done week-long mountain bike courses in Stowe area.
8. **Pest House.** Ron went to see Irwin Gilchrist to follow up on a lead that he and Art Chase had Pest House stories. Irwin said that his brother made a raft with permission to use some of the timbers from the house and launched it on Hardwick Lake to fish with, debunking the story we had heard. Irwin had lots of praise for the way that the Pest House has been developed.

9. **Bottle Redemption.** We have April. Put your bottles in the bin at the Kwik Stop.
10. **July 9.** Susan Sawyer drawing and painting event.
11. **MOU.** The GMTCC-Trails group did not meet this month because of sugaring, but should meet in May.
12. **Signage.** Following up on Perry Heller's offer to Ron about signage to direct motorists to the Trails, Gail went to the Agency of Transportation in Montpelier. There are two categories: town signs and OBDS--official business directional signs. Gail spoke with the OBDS specialist, Toni May. As far as the official signs, you can put up to three signs on a structure. The fee is \$100 renewal each year. It costs \$175 to create the sign and cover the first year. Signs have to be 200' from other signs. If the sign is vandalized, the state will replace it at no cost. The town signs within the village need permission from the town, no cost. Gail suggests that we have at least one official sign at the fire station. We can put the name, direction and universal logo on it. From the other directions, we could get away with town signs. Kristen Leahy is the person to talk to at the town.
13. **Resolution.** Tomorrow on the floor of the House at 10:00 AM there will be a resolution read about the Hazen Wildcats.
14. **Grants.** We haven't done anything recently about pursuing grant money; Eric will do so after sugaring. Chip reminded us that the Dept. of Agriculture has some grant programs, one that he spoke with the commissioner about that has to include putting people to work. Needing new equipment is still our plan—new machine, new groomer. Chip is willing to look through names. Jessica had a grant conversation with a man from Forests, Parks and Recreation. Lenore has names that she will forward to Eric.
15. **Pumpkins.** It's time to start thinking about a source.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Trecartin

**Next Meeting:** May 2, 2016, 5:30 PM, at the Memorial Building