

**MINUTES**  
**Trails Committee**  
**March 7, 2016**

Attending: Norma & Ron Wiesen, Wayne Renaud, Gail Johnson, Judy Bellairs, Sue Trecartin, Emmett Avery, Doug McClure, Nicole Miller, Matt Jerome, Pam Stonier, Norma Spaulding

1. **Minutes.** Ron moved the Minutes of February 1st; Nicole seconded. Approved.
2. **Financials.** Norma W. distributed copies of the Budget through January 31, 2016, prepared by Brittany, with a general fund balance of \$3,561.03 and capital fund balance of \$5,439.62.
3. **Trail Conditions.** The trails are icy. On Sunday, Gail heard gunshot that was quite close as she walked on the green trail and will talk to the police tomorrow.
4. **REACH.** Only got in one or two skis. Not a good season.
5. **Sugar on Snow Event.** In collaboration with GMTCC, scheduled for March 19, but we have no snow and it's going to be warm throughout the period. At this point, it seems that it will not happen.
6. **MOU.** Met with GMTCC again on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It was mutually agreed that we have yet to define a process of communication on a regular basis between us and GMTCC. We hope to have the Caledonia-Essex County Forester at our next meeting to have a conversation about our situation and ask if he is able to do some analysis and make recommendations for the uses that we together have for the land. If he is unable to do it, we will ask him to recommend someone. Ben Notterman said he wants his students to be with the forester as he's doing this analysis so they can learn from him. If we should come to loggerheads and cannot resolve issues, the superintendent of OSSU will be the arbiter. She was present and agreed.
7. **Perry Heller and Signage.** In appreciation for having the cabin opened and ski usage, Perry asked what he could in return as well as sending in a generous donation. He and Ron agreed that signage in the community would be a big help to guide people to the trails. Perry said he could design something for us and knows someone who could make the signs, but the problem is where they could be installed. For state highways, signs have to be bought from the state at \$100 or more per sign that has to be renewed every year. The state does check and take down unauthorized signs. Regarding placement around town, Perry talked to Larry Hamel who owns the Centennial Building and the small building across the street. Larry is willing for us to post signs on his buildings, which would be legal. Perry is exploring it. Gail will call the state to get current prices for their signs.

8. **Website.** Doug began working on our revised website in November-December and has put in countless hours, all gratis. It's very near ready for launch. The Rec Committee would like to develop a website and Katharine has asked us to consolidate. The question is why we would want to hold back on a site that is ready and beautiful. Nicole who is on both committees explained that as Rec is reorganizing, they are trying to figure out all the activities in the town and want to make sure that the public knows everything that's going on in town. Doug says that having two sites that link together will actually help not hurt. Ron asked how important it is that we keep the three domain names. Doug says the cost is minimal and it's worth paying for domain names to avoid someone setting up something unconnected or trying to sell it back to us at a big cost.

9. **Survey at Town Meeting.** Norma handed around copies of the survey with all of the responses typed in. We had 30 respondents. One thing that jumped out is that we need to have another conversation about dogs. At the next meeting, we will share our thoughts after perusing the responses. During Spring Festival, there is usually a craft fair at the elementary school. We could be there with a paper survey as we did at town meeting. It would be nice to have some three-fold pamphlets there as well. We will think of other events where we could put out surveys.

10. **Pest House.** Irwin Gilcrist commended the Trails' efforts at the Pest House. It would be interesting to have Irwin and Art Chase speak to us about it; Wiesens will invite them to a meeting.

11. **Welcome** to new member Pam Stonier. She has come to be a worker with the committee. Has a small dog, always cleans up after the dogs. Willing to educate other dog owners, to work on the situation.

12. **Bird and Wildflower Walks.** We will talk about them at the next meeting. May is fast approaching.

13. **Kiwanis Bottle Drop.** April is our month at the Kwik Stop. They give us the value of all the bottles donated there for the month.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Trecartin

**Next Meeting:** April 4, 2016, 5:30 PM, at the Memorial Building