

**MINUTES**  
**Trails Committee**  
**May 2, 2016**

Attending: Ron Wiesen, Lenore & Wayne Renaud, Gail Johnson, Pam Stonier, Sue Trecartin, Emmett Avery, Doug McClure, Dave Mitchell, Joe Brosseau, Eric Remick, Alex Utevsy, Jessica Manchester

Guest: Michael Bielawski, *The Gazette*

1. **Financials.** Nothing has changed since last month except for a few hundred dollars in salary; no new report from Brittany. There are supplies that we need to get ordered. The tractor needs servicing that Wayne and Eric will handle unless repairs are needed.

2. **Trail Conditions.** Trails are coming along pretty well. There are some wet spots, but Wayne has done a lot of work. We will rent a mini-excavator for 48 hours (\$500) from Menard's in Morrisville. Wayne will call Menard's for information and scheduling. We can use money from repairs (\$1,500). Sue moved and Gail seconded. Approved.

Wayne dumped some asphalt on the bank that is caving in to start building it up. Off the green trail, at the first cut-off, there's a big dead tree that needs to come down.

Ben and Forestry might be willing to help take it down as well as another near the Tech Center before the end of the school year.

3. **Minutes.** Lenore moved the Minutes of April 4th; Joe seconded. Approved.

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

The Fun Run route is printed on our website--start and end at the Inn, to Forestry, right on the green trail, most of the yellow, onto the purple and back on the sugar road. Sarah sent an email to Trails people with names of those who have signed up. She will want people at all the intersections.

5. **Bike Ride.** No new developments. Emmet needs to talk to Matt and Chris about who will lead.

6. **Events and Survey.** The subcommittee has not met yet. One of the things that was found lacking on the survey was trail intersection signs. Ron has put up new ones.

7. **Bike Instructor Course.** As presented at our last meeting, Chris Ingram wants to take an instructor course to instruct and provide support for new and experienced bikers. We need to think about supporting him to some degree bearing in mind the amount of labor he has provided to make the mountain bike trails a real part of what we offer. The course costs \$500 and it was

suggested that we support half of that. For precedence' sake and for fund-raising, we need a written document of explanation to describe what Chris intends.

NOTE: Following the meeting, Chris sent an email of explanation that is attached to the hard copy of the Minutes.

8. **Signage.** As follow-up to what Gail presented at our last meeting about community signage, she recapped what she learned from the state and town. There is room for one more of the black state signs at the fire station. We have to decide whether we want one--\$175 to install, \$100/year thereafter. Gail will look into the cost for town signs; they are exempt from zoning regulations. If we go with the town signs, we need to meet with them about details. Suggestions include placing town signs on Route 15 coming west and Route 14 coming north, something at the Information booth, and a pin for Hardwick Trails on the Google map. We should look at what exists on the present signs to make a decision at the next meeting.

Perry Heller volunteered to help us with signs. He digitized and updated our logo; copies were circulated. He talked to Larry Hammel about the Hardwick Inn and the 1824 building as places to post. He is willing to make the signs. They would be informational. We would have discretion about where they are placed. Eric thinks they would be subject to zoning regulations. Joe will talk with Perry.

9. **Grants.** Eric still has the information Norma got at the forum.

10. **Pumpkin Source for Fall.** We need 300-400 pumpkins the size is a large pie pumpkin. We will reach out to Heartbeet as something to do on their land. Alex will talk to Hannah at Heartbeet. Pam grew almost 100 pumpkins to donate to her grandchildren's school a few years ago. If things grow, she will donate what she grows this year. Lenore has some pumpkin seeds, and we could ask High Mowing.

11. **Community Forum.** A skateboard park seems to be the most viable project at present. Joe will report back.

12. **Coin Drop in July.** The town wants to know what date we want. We are looking at the 9<sup>th</sup>. People will check their calendars and make a decision at the next meeting.

13. **Trails Library.** There was a request for a library on the Trails by a child in the survey. Emmet's mom, Diane Grinko, Children's Librarian at the Jeudevine, picked up on it. Board member David Gross keeps a little library at a few places and would be willing to take care of one on the Trails. They have a plexiglass cover. He restocks them every couple of weeks. The bench by the bridge would be a good spot. Gail and Norma will give Diane the go-ahead tomorrow.

**Other:**

14. **A. Rec Committee Projects.** Looking for locations for a skate park and pump track. If the Trails become more of a destination for recreation, Frisbee golf is a good suggestion. It is very low-cost, can be built into the trail. It would attract more people to the trails. Dave is in favor and would be willing to help. Gail voiced that it takes away from the hiking experience. It would be nice to see a lot of things in one location. If things can be more centrally located, it involves more people. There would be space where the shed is beyond the tennis courts for a skate park and a skills park. Other areas at Hazen included the section out beyond the art room and the lower field. Other town locations are Atkins Field and across from Lamoille Valley Ford. Joe is gathering information. It can be done in stages. If we get a lot of people using it, it's easier to get grants and fund-raise and find a new site. Jessica said the beginner pump track at Atkins Field is going forward.

**B. Bat Houses.** Gail and Judy Bellairs attended the pollinators meeting at the Echo Museum in April. From a flyer, Gail read about a potential forester and a community wildlife program that assists organization. Another has to do with attracting bats. It might be fun to have at least one bat house. Nicole who runs the summer program for REACH may be interested in their building a bat house. Bird friendly sugarbushes information can go to Ben.

**C. Compliments.** While doing ditch work on the trails, a gentleman approached Wayne and said to tell us we are doing a great job on the trails. He is Lew Shattuck's son Jim, now living here. A couple from Boston told Wayne they had never seen anything like this before and were falling in love with it.

**D. Website.** We have a bill from Powershift and need to decide whether to continue with them. Doug says he can make it live as is in mid-May. Dave will find out from Powershift before bill is due at the end of May who owns the domain. Doug is willing to host for free.

Spring Festival, Center for Agriculture Tent at Atkins Field. Pam and Gail will staff a table for the Trails to talk about the Trails and upcoming events. There is some small charge. Joe has a sheet that we could hand out. The town bylaws allow us to set up special task forces to work short-term on dedicated projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Trecartin

**Next Meeting:** June 6, 2016, 5:30 PM, at the Cabin