

MINUTES
Trails Committee
February 9, 2015

Attending: Norma & Ron Wiesen, Sue Trecartin, Eric Remick, Lenore & Wayne Renaud, Dave Mitchell, Matt Jerome

1. **Trails Condition.** Gorgeous! Dave will train to help groom.
2. **Financials.** We have about \$6,300.
3. **January Minutes.** Eric moved, Dave seconded. Approved.
4. **Bottle Drop.** We have March for bottles at the Quik Stop.
5. **Ski Program.** They're having a good time. Volunteers for Feb. 14--____, 28—Lenore, and March 7—Dave
6. **Grant.** Submitted a week ago, requesting 80 hours of excavator time for hiking/ski trails and 80 for mountain bike trails; two culverts. Ski trails time includes the expense of an operator; bike trails will have volunteers, need machine time only, which we can rent from Craftsbury Outdoor Center. We need to cut a lot of trees along the trail system; for the ski trail, the green loop and part of the blue; not on Shepards' land. There are hemlocks where a bridge needs to go. Dave has pressure-treated decking to donate. The total is around \$20,000, so the grant is 80 percent. We would donate labor, the town donate fill, for in-kind. The grant notification is June 1st this year, a lot earlier than in the past. A resounding thank-you to Eric for doing all the work on this.
7. **Signage Revision.** Lenore has done some research and compiled a draft that she will email around. Once agreed upon, she will engage Great Big Graphics to create six each of summer and winter signs on sturdy stock, pre-drilled in the corners to double-mount that Ron will temporarily post for the winter. This comes as a result of a number of complaints, arguments, and uncontrolled dogs this winter. The dog use is increasing along with the people use. There is a leash law in Hardwick, and we need to cite it.
8. **GMTCC Relationship.** With new leadership at Forestry, we want to create a viable working relationship. We have already met with Mike Moriarty and John Craig who are happy to work with us, but they want the school board's blessing. Eric will ask to be on next month's agenda with the school board. Thereafter, we can pull Ben in to a meeting with the principals. We would like the school board to empower the principals, or another entity, to oversee the property to create accountability for all of us. Ron and Eric will work on this.

Discussion included the need to push for a forester's assessment of the land to support good forestry management practices and develop a multi-use forest plan. We could start with the county forester. It would take a year to get a current use plan and could be covered by a grant.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Trecartin

Next Meeting: 5:30 PM, March 9, 2015, at the Memorial Building—NOTE that the 9th is the **second Monday** due to Town Meeting.