

MINUTES--edited underlined
Trails Committee
October 6, 2014

Attending: Norma and Ron Wiesen, Lenore and Wayne Renaud, Gail Johnson, Sue Trecartin, Nicole Miller, Eric Remick

1. **Trails Condition.** Pretty good. Water spots here and there; we need the rain. GMTCC Forestry is cutting on Lew's Loop, thinning. If there's anybody out walking, just be careful.

2. **Financials.** Brittany is home with a new baby girl, so no update. We're estimating the Pumpkin Walk will cost about \$1,000. The Cellars at Jasper Hill gave us a \$100 donation in response to our request on Front Porch Forum. The Center for Agriculture will help us figure out a better way to do this next year. They hope to get a cider press and will add vegetable beds to grow pumpkins. Nicole will look into sustainability efforts. Maybe the Four Seasons will do something up there. High Mowing would probably willing to donate seeds if they have any; Lenore has saved a lot from last year. It's easy: just clean, dry on newspaper, put them in a paper envelope, store in a glass jar in the refrigerator.

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Regarding the "carry forward" budget issue, the auditors are okay with what we're doing, but legally in order to carry forward, we need to obtain permission from the voters. Current plan: be on the agenda for the next town meeting: our group, the Recreation Committee, and the library. That way, we can carry on the way we have been. The select board can put it on the agenda. The other possible solution would be to do a line item in one of the capital equipment funds. We could also form a Friends of the Trails 501c3 nonprofit; the treasurer would have to do the banking. It's nice having the town do all the accounting for us. When we apply for a grant, we're better off being under the auspices of the town. While a future board could decide there's money left and reduce our appropriation, the town has been good to the trails and the trails have been good for the town. At year ten, we have more credibility than we did at year three, and we would probably get good support from town members if needed. Ultimately, it's a small amount of money. On the tax rate, every \$16,000 adds a cent, so we're not even a ha'penny. Brittany would like budget documents in November.

3. **September Minutes.** Lenore moved to approve; Nicole seconded.

4. **Bike Trails.** Ron walked a piece of it today with Jon Jewett—Highland Trace. It is all roughed out and will make a great snowshoe track. Ron is measuring the trails with his GPS and putting together a map; he sent out a rough draft two days ago and will add a compass rose as Gail suggested.

5. **Poetry Trail.** The new poems are up for the year. Ron and Wayne moved and replaced the needed posts, 12 and 7 respectively. Nicole brought the request for student poetry to Hardwick

Elementary. Fifth grade teacher Lisa Forbes has expressed interest. Sue will go through Jodi Quinn at Hazen to reach the language arts teachers.

6. **Shepard Easement.** Where we're at: The Shepards would rather not sell us an easement. The Vermont Land Trust seems to have an option to buy it, but they prefer not to move on it at this time. Eric will get a copy from the Land Trust. Other trails around us, such as Craftsbury and Kingdom, operate on others' land on a year-to-year handshake basis, so we're in better shape than that.

7. **Grant.** The update. Sherry read Eric the notes from the committee. They approved of the roller/compactor, but they would rather we hire someone such as VAST to groom the trails than buy a snow machine. We could have had stronger letters from the towns and the schools. Danny's suggestion is to try again and address their questions in the application. The deadline is in February. We'll have to decide as a group. Without the equipment, we probably would have been funded. There are no strings on the federal money that prohibits equipment. Tentatively, we want to go ahead and try again on the equipment.

8. **Membership.** We really could use some more hands on this committee. Lenore will put our meetings on Facebook.

9. **Coin Drop 2015.** We have July.

10. **Pumpkin Walk.** We will gather at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Joe Zabinski will not be here this year to tend the fire. We should bring snacks for workers and camp lanterns.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Trecartin

Next Meeting: 5:30 PM, November 3, 2014, at the Memorial Building.