

MINUTES
Trails Committee
November 2, 2015

Attending: Wayne & Lenore Renaud, Eric Remick, Emmet Avery, Sue Trecartin, Helen Beattie, Matt Jerome, Doug McClure, Katharine and Chris Ingram

1. **Welcome** new member Doug McClure.
2. **Financials.** Our balance is \$5,356.55 and our Capital Fund balance is \$5,289.62 (printout attached to hard copy).
3. **Trails Condition.** Wayne will be out the rest of the week cutting posts for a variety of new signs and cutting overhanging branches. Brent will pick up the snow machines to service them.
4. **Minutes.** Eric moved the Minutes for October; Lenore seconded. Approved.
5. **MOU.** Lenore circulated copies of Eric's email (attached to hard copy) regarding his meeting with Hazen principal Mike Moriarty to start the process of updating the MOU from 2003. Mike will initiate contact with a GMTCC representative to bring them into the discussion. A November meeting is planned but no date set. Eric will attend another Hazen School Board meeting to update the board on their progress. Eric and Chris will also attend a Hardwick Electric Dept. meeting. Mike's question about Trail usage led to a discussion of securing light-beam counters to get an idea of traffic on the trails.
6. **New Recreation Coordinator.** Jessica Manchester is the new Recreation Coordinator of the Hardwick Area Recreation Providers (HARP). Nicole, Ron, Helen, and Katharine met with her to discuss her duties. She wants to begin with what the Trails Committee wants to accomplish since we are the only real subcommittee of the Recreation Committee. Our discussion yielded the following three items that we can use assistance with at present: the REAP grant, light-beam counters to determine trail usage, and increased publicity of the mountain bike trails.

--REAP. Set up a meeting with the REAP overseer and Chip Troiano. Talk with Eric about the connector trail to Craftsbury. Potential for paid groomers, expanded naturalist programs, other job opportunities.

--Counter. Check with other entities to see what they use, such as Stowe Bike Path, VAST, VASA. Determining usage has potential for getting a groomer.

--Publicity. How do we better publicize our bike trails? Take a picture of the bike signs. Write a press release to get the word out. Put it in Vermont Sports. And on the website.

Jessica already plans to create a new web program, a go-to hub with a year-long seasonal plan linked to the town calendar that is user-friendly and that will build up our use. If Dave Mitchell is amenable, Doug McClure will update our website to make it easier for cell phone download.

Regarding Jessica's salary, the hope was that she would start in September, get an inventory and a strategic plan with all of the town players, the leverage points, where she should be spending her time, and what is the greatest benefit of her position so that she can be fully funded for the next fiscal year. However, the town budget planning is set to begin. This position will only be sustainable over time if it proves its worth. If the Trails Committee is willing to commit to fund a portion of her salary, it could make a difference in what the town is willing to do. We will discuss it at our next meeting that Jessica plans to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Trecartin

Next Meeting: Dec. 7, 2015, 5:30 PM, at the Memorial Building.