

MINUTES
Trails Committee
December 7, 2015

Attending: Norma & Ron Wiesen, Dave Mitchell, Doug McClure, Chris Ingram, Gail Johnson, Wayne & Lenore Renaud, Alex Utevsky Guest: Jessica Manchester, Hardwick Town Recreation Coordinator

1. **Minutes.** Ron moved the Minutes for November; Chris seconded. Approved.
2. **Website.** Doug took us through a revised website that he is working on with a number of exciting features including easy-to-update weather and snow conditions, live feed from Facebook, topographical trail map, universal symbols, useful committee page, link to a summer page. It will be a good tie-in to the Hardwick community. Four of us will work with Doug—Norma, Lenore, Gail and Sue—to add content and pictures.
3. **Financials.** We have no new figures from last month. Brent Hodgdon has fixed and serviced the old Scandic for \$100, and it is ready to go. Approximately \$690 for insurance that has always been taken out of the Rec budget will be charged to Trails. We need to add that amount to our budget.
4. **Trails Conditions.** The inner trails are very muddy. There has been a lot of logging on the yellow trail, going out to the red trail. Wayne will plant some trees needed to mark the trail in places. We will connect with Eric to ask Ben to smooth out the deep ruts in the sugar road. Wayne and Eric repaired a culvert that had been pounded down. Other than that, we need snow!
5. **Town Recreation Coordinator.** Jessica needs direction from us to know what we need from her in terms of: **Equipment.** The Renauds will get updated pricing for a new Scandic. Chris says we have most of tools for the single track; we need funding for design help and to pay local companies to come in and knock out larger portions of trail than volunteers can create by hand. We have a decent volunteer base.

Data collection/Market survey. We would like to know how many people are using the trails. We talked about sign-in, game cameras, counters, a box with a short survey that gets picked up frequently—that could be put on the website and at other sites around town. With the color-coded trail system, we could benefit from a survey. We prefer not to borrow equipment.

Pumpkin Walk. In 2014, our sources dried up and we had to purchase pumpkins and refreshments. We were not prepared and the Rec Committee bailed us out that year because they had funds left. We did cover the cost of the Pumpkin Walk this year—budgeted \$1,000 in Programs and Activities. We have around \$150 left in that fund; most of our labor for the year has been paid; we will be short after the bird walks. The coin drop funds went into the Capital Fund this year.

Website programming. Do we want our website to be linked into a town events calendar? It can be embedded into the town, in multiple places. We would extract our calendar. It would be nice to have one central location. At present, we are posting to four places. Doug says our website could be linked.

Events. Right now, we have very few events. Planning, scheduling and manning events is a big deal for a small committee. Lenore will work to come up with a usage guide. Jessica would like to get grant money to sponsor events. We will dedicate some time at the next meeting to brainstorm a list of events we would like.

Jessica will apply for rolling grant funds when it's clear what we require. She will need proof of what we have done for the grant applications and will need to work closely with someone for our history. Helen and Eric have a lot of the information from past grant applications; Norma has copies.

6. Gail is interested in doing a winter scavenger hunt and will submit a written plan for an event In January or February.
7. Nicole is hoping for snow for the Cross Country Ski Program in REACH.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Trecartin

Next Meeting: Jan. 4, 2016, 5:30 PM, at the Memorial Building.