

HARDWICK TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

June 3, 2024

5:30-7:30 PM

The Shepard's House

In attendance: Helen B, Ron & Norma W, Wayne R, Dave M, Nancy S & Al C, Eric R, Norma S, Terry & John T, Heather & Steve B

1. Adopt/Amend Minutes of May 6 Meeting—approved unanimously
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Act 250 amendments & new trails for land north of Billings Rd (see item #6)
 - b. Parking on Billings Rd (see item #5)
3. Updates:
 - a. Trail conditions
 - i. Single-track is in good shape
 - ii. Some trees down
 - iii. Hole on Green trail needs fixing
 1. Use grant funds to repair
 2. Eric will address with mini-vator
 - iv. Some bridge planks need replacing
 - b. Kiosk installation
 - i. Eric, Dave, and Wayne will meet next week to address
 - ii. Culvert & kiosk are ready
 - c. Spring programming
 - i. Events well attended
 - ii. 5 events scheduled:
 1. June 29: Joe Nudell and Arthur Hynes: Mushroom Walk
 2. July 6: Susan Sawyer: Art on the Trails
 3. July 27: Lucian Avery: Foraging
 4. Aug. 3: Alicia Clark: Nature Hunt (kids)
 5. Need a fifth event...
 - d. New shelves in the cabin (NO MORE METAL CABINET!!)
 - i. Thanks to Maxfield E and students!
 - ii. Storage for snowshoes and boots

- e. Adaptive Sports Partners
 - i. Program begins June 17
 - ii. Hiking in the a.m., riding on the LVRT, then mountain biking in the afternoon
 - iii. Parking at GMTCC for easier access to trails
 - iv. Hoping to make an existing trail more accessible
- f. MOU Meeting
 - i. Helen met with Jason D (Hazen principal)
 - ii. Discussed ropes course—revive or remove
 - iii. Parking?
 - iv. Discussed Forestry program's intentions for Hazen property
 - 1. Jason wants quarterly meetings with GMTCC
 - 2. Discussed integration of trail design & management into GMTCC curriculum
 - 3. Need a forester to create/update forest management plan
- 4. Financials: Norma S
 - a. We're doing good, Wayne needs to submit timesheet
 - b. Over \$21000 in Capital fund + \$2500 grant funds (committed to trail repair)
- 5. Parking on Billings Rd
 - a. Town manager and zoning administrator approved parking area construction
 - b. Nancy & Al got VT Land Trust's approval
 - c. Dave M will contact potential contractors to construct parking area
- 6. New Trail work & Act 250
 - a. Some of unauthorized trail off of Rocky Top trail will be closed
 - b. Eric wants to involve trail builders in Act 250 amendment process to allow new trail building on municipal land north of Billings Rd

Strategic Planning: Accomplishments (brainstormed lists)

- 1. Strengths
 - a. Great multi-use trails, well maintained & open year-round
 - b. Financially sound, donations keep coming in
 - c. Location: adjacent to LVRT & village
 - d. Hazen & community buy-in

- e. Great landowners!
- f. Wayne
- 2. Challenges/Threats
 - a. Climate change—low snowfall, heavy rains
 - b. Funding for capital expenses
 - c. Need for more younger volunteers
 - d. Vandalism & homelessness
 - e. Conflict with GMTCC forestry over logging & sugaring operations
 - f. Unleashed dogs
 - g. Encourage more local usage/buy-in
- 3. Opportunities
 - a. community/GMTCC/student tie-ins
 - b. Adaptive sports
 - c. Parking
 - d. Expand trails (north of Billings Rd & east of Bridgman Hill Rd)
 - e. More & varied programs
 - f. Trail workdays
 - g. Organized trail rides
 - h. Suggested routes

Next meeting July 1 @ 5:30