

Readfield Trails Committee (RTC) Meeting February, 23, 2016 Minutes

Members Present: Jeanne Harris, Bob Harris, Hank Laidlaw, Chris Sammons (board liaison) Nancy Buker, Gary Keilty, Ann Keilty, Ken Clark, Greg Durgin

Guest: Eric Dyer, Town Manager

Absent (Excused) Will Harris, Romaine Turyn, Karen Petersen, Becky Walsh, Rob Peale
Meeting called to order at 6:35 by chair Gary K.

January Minutes: Not available at meeting. Romaine T. to provide at a later date.

Treasurer's report: Jeanne H. reported RTC has \$1,107.61 remaining in our budget.

Town Manager: Eric D. expressed his appreciation of the RTC work over the past season. He uses the trails with his family. He sees where RTC budget could be a carry forward account as long as two criteria are met: projects not completed during appropriate season and funds that should be designated for specific purposes within the budget. Eric also discussed the status of the RTC trust account outside of the yearly budget where donations from the general public are located. He will check on the status of 2-3 recent donations to the trust fund. Upcoming meetings regarding the budget were noted and Chris has agreed to keep RTC informed. RTC should be active and vocal about gaining support for our budget and should send a memo to the Select Board regarding support for RTC budget to be a carry forward account. Eric noted the receipt from Nancy B. regarding the Town meeting several years ago authorizing the RTC trust fund to include interest **and** principal. Eric also suggested it is time to organize an official town recognition event for those who volunteer for the town.

Strategic Plan: Ken C. Lydia A., and Hank L. worked on the original and the updated plan for RTC. It was agreed to add a purpose for the committee as well as goals. The mission statement is already included and has approval of the committee. Ken agreed to more “fine tuning” of the document and will send out to members before the next meeting.

RTC Member's Terms Expiring: Gary provided the list of 8 current members whose terms expire at the end of June. Members seeking re-appointment should notify the town office if they wish to remain on RTC. It was noted that Hank L. will not be seeking a re-appointment for personal reasons. He has agreed to keep volunteering work hours for projects. Members attending acknowledged Hank's diligence and hard work during his time on the committee. There was discussion regarding the Select Board's authority to appoint, re-appoint, or remove members from any town committee. It was agreed that criteria for such actions should be established and RTC will create such criteria for our committee. There is an ad hoc committee for the town working on the appt./ re-appt. issue and it has provided a draft that is available for public input.

2015 Town Report & Log Book: Gary provided copies of the report prepared for the Readfield Annual Town Report. It included a list of committee member's and other resident's hours donated on projects. There were 600 hours of donated labor and equipment from April 8th 2015 thru December 9th 2015. More volunteer hours will be used as soon as the (real) spring season arrives. Copies of the report will be given to the Conservation Commission to help foster communication between the two boards.

Mill Stream Dam Project: Bob H. and Greg D. reported on a meeting with John Cushing to get a rough idea about potential cost for some of the Stage 1 project work. John volunteered his time to look over the plan and he provided an estimate of \$3,000 to \$3,700. Bob and Greg will be meeting (hopefully) before our next meeting with Jerry Bley from Conservation to do some planning for permitting and fund raising.

MCS Trails: Several members participated in a second site visit in January at the trails area behind Maranacook. These trails have been somewhat neglected since being built in the 1970's. Weather and nature have taken their toll on these trails. Some work could be started this spring on maintenance that could include Maranacook students and staff. It was noted that RSU #38 has agreed to allow parking at the Bus Garage lot for anyone using a potential future town trail in the area of the town transfer station.

Disability Conference: Ann and Gary K. reported on the conference they attended in Waterville. They had an opportunity to meet with Travis Mills who was the guest speaker. Ann and Gary offered Readfield trails usage support for wounded veterans who would be using the wounded veterans facility currently being built in Rome. Travis Mills is spearheading that building project for fellow wounded veterans.

Conservation Commission: Greg D. provided information on projects and budget items that Conservation is currently undertaking. Information from RTC work was provided to the Commission members in early February as many times our projects and work can dovetail.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Durgin