

PO Box 16
Readfield, ME 04355
December 8, 2014

Sue Reay, Chair
Select Board
Town of Readfield
8 Old Kents Hill Road
Readfield, ME 04355

Dear Sue:

I have put in my appointments calendar a tentative meeting for the Chairs of the standing committees with the Select Board for either January 5, 2015 or January 20, 2015. Although I have not seen the agenda for the Chairs' meeting, I have a request for placement of an item on the meeting agenda. On September 22, 2014 the Select Board approved what I will refer to as a Liaison Policy which would assign a Select Board member or a "community citizen" to be a liaison to each of the committees in Town government. I spoke as a private citizen on that date at the third reading of that policy before the Select Board and asked that the final approval of this Liaison Policy be postponed until such time as the Chairs of the committees could be notified of the proposed Liaison Policy and have time to submit any suggestions for revisions to it. The Select Board brushed aside my suggestion and decided at that very meeting to take final action to confirm the Liaison Policy. I have no idea why the Select Board was "hell bent for leather" to adopt the Liaison Policy. My reaction is that if it is important enough to have a Chairs' meeting on an annual basis in January, then why wasn't it important enough to call a meeting of or to notify the Chairs of the proposed Liaison Policy

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and get feedback to it before formally adopting it?

Perhaps even at this late date there could be a discussion for the reasons for the Liaison Policy and its planned implementation of it with the chairs of the committees who will be assembled on either January 5 or 20?

Very truly yours,



Milton R. Wright, Chair
Trails Committee

Cc: Select Board

Stefan Pakulski, Town Manager

Robin Lint, Town Clerk

Trails Committee

PO Box 16
Readfield, ME 04355
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Sue Reay, Chair
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Dear Sue:

I came across recently in the November 17, 2014 Select Board packet very important legal material from MMA Legal Services providing guidance on trail liability, abandoned roads, public easements, no liability for outdoor recreational facilities, landowner liability law and road abandonment that is of major importance to the Trails Committee as it seeks to implement its mission, yet there was no notification of the existence of this legal material by the Select Board or by anyone in Town government to me or to members of the Trails Committee. Why? Or is communication by the Select Board with Readfield's standing committees particularly the Trails Committee passe`?

Very truly yours,



Milton R. Wright, Chair
Trails Committee

Cc: Select Board Members
Stefan Pakulski, Town Manager
Robin Lint, Town Clerk
Trails Committee Members

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Sue Reay, Chair
Readfield Select Board
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Dear Sue:

In my remarks before the Select Board at its meeting on December 1, 2014, I reported that the owners of the former Tom and Ann Lukas property, Brandi and Derek Nelson, are willing to enter into a permanent trail easement where the existing trail crosses a portion of their property parallel to the Old Fairgrounds Road. But what members of the Select Board raised at the meeting had to do with parking in the winter time at the intersection of the Nickerson Hill Road and the Morrill Road and the use of town funds to build a trail on private property. The Trails Committee has no trail at or near the intersection of the Nickerson Hill and Morrill Roads although there is a snowmobile trail that crosses the road at that point. Any vehicles that might possibly obstruct the plowing of snow on the roads that are parked at this intersection are more than likely there for cross-country skiers, snowshoers or snowmobilers using the snowmobile trail. Perhaps some temporary "No Parking" signs could be installed by the Town at this intersection to prevent the parking of vehicles at this location when there is a need for snow plowing. The question about parking at this intersection is totally unrelated to Trails Committee trails and seems to be an excuse for some members of the Select Board to vote "No" to anything that is contemplated by

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the Trails Committee even though the Trails Committee does not now have nor has ever contemplated a trail at this road intersection.

On the matter of a trail agreement with the Union Meeting House to establish a trail behind and along the border of that property, the Trails Committee has contemplated the placement of geo textile fabric, the placement of blue stone and a culvert at the Church Road trailhead. These items will cost the town money for which the voters at the annual 2014 Town Meeting approved the Trails Committee budget including these cost items and the trail would be an extension and built to the same standards of the existing trail in the park behind the library now called the Community Pathway. In effect, this is the same trail with improvements on the Town portion of it that was maintained by the late Ernest Bracy of the Union Meeting House. The Union Meeting House Board has agreed to an initial five-year trail agreement with the trail agreement allowing for an extension of the agreement in five-year increments. Other trail agreements with private property owners are contemplated with the duration of the agreements being ten years and again allowing for an extension of the agreement in ten-year increments. I know of no other trail agreements on private property at this time that would involve the expenditure of tax funds. All work on these private properties would be performed by Trails Committee members and volunteers. A Select Board member at the December 1 Select Board meeting expressed a desire that trails, such as the Community Pathway in the park behind the library, help local businesses. Members of the Trails Committee have observed people frequenting a local business (the Cornerstone Café) and then walking the Community Pathway to Church Road, walking Church Road to the Fairgrounds Complex and utilizing the trails in the Fairgrounds Complex.

When the Trails Committee proposed to build a trail on the discontinued 300' section of the Morrill Road, the Trails Committee has been stymied by a moratorium enacted by the Select Board without any consultation with the Trails

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Committee even though the Town retained a public easement over the discontinued portion of the road that allows for construction of a trail.

Although the Select Board has taken no formal action about building a trail on the section of Mill Stream Road that is badly eroding and has never been discontinued, apparently the voice of one of the two abutting landowners to a Select Board member(s) has been sufficient to raise the issue of road "abandonment". The other abutting property owners are in full support of the construction of a trail on Mill Stream Road. This is a section of road on which the Town has spent considerable money in the construction of a pedestrian footbridge over Mill Stream, not once but twice within the past 30 years, and the trail will provide access to the historical Factory Square from the center of town and prevent further erosion of this portion of Mill Stream Road and its potential environmental degradation of Mill Stream and its eroding roadway in the future. Even if the road was found to be abandoned by a court of law, the Town retains a public easement over this section of road over which a trail can be built.

Very truly yours,



Milton R. Wright, Chair
Trails Committee

Cc: Select Board Members
Stefan Pakulski, Town Manager
Robin Lint, Town Clerk
Trails Committee Members