

## June 23, 2015 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Will Harris, Nancy Buker, Bob Harris, Hank Laidlaw, Ken Clark, Milt Wright, Lydia Adelson, Gary Keilty, Ann Keilty, Romaine Turyn, Chris Sammons

Excused Absent: Karen Peterson, Rob Peale, Jeanne Harris

Chair Milt Wright called the meeting to order at the Town Office at 6:30 PM.

May 26, 2015 Minutes: Motion to accept by Will Harris, seconded by Ken Clark with correction of the spelling of McDougald. Approved by unanimous vote.

Milt Wright went over the three secret ballot articles that pertained to the Trails Committee.

1. Article #22-To accept and appropriate an anticipated donation in the amount of \$2700 for Readfield Trails Committee projects. Yes 586, No 91, Blank 16
2. Article #50-Authorize Select Board to enter into Trail Easements and Agreements with private property owners. Yes 488, No 174, blank 31
3. Article #51-To accept previously signed trail agreement between the Town of Readfield and the Union Meeting House. Yes 566, No 95, Blank 32

Ken Clark updated us on the Strategic Plan. He passed out the Strategic Plan, updated by Ken Clark, Hank Laidlaw and Lydia Adelson (Included in the minutes). Ken Clark asked Lydia Adelson to update her visit to the schools. Lydia said her visit to the High School was very positive. She talked to the secretary and she was going give a copy to the physical education teacher. She was also going to give the map to all of the teachers and stress the whole family could use the trails. Lydia then visited the elementary school and talked to Sherry Williams. She agreed to put the maps in the lobby and send it home in the newsletter. Sherry Williams also sent the information to the other three elementary schools and they are putting it in their newsletters. Shawn Harper, Spirit of America Award recipient, was at the school working with the students on their lunch break with a walking program. He was receptive to promoting the trails. Will Harris asked if the high school had an Outing Club and suggested getting in touch with Carol Leone who runs a non-profit Teens to Trails. It could bring teens to the trails for enjoyment and labor. Lydia is going to talk to the biology teacher because the students have a yearlong project of checking an area for a year. They are also going to follow up at the beginning of the school year. Ken also said he could envision Mom's walking together with their strollers on the trails. Everyone thought the Strategic Plan Committee did a good job.

Hank submitted the estimated cost for the new gatepost anchors for the existing gate at the old landfill road (included). He says he spoke with Tom Donegay who was very helpful by recommending Auburn Concrete and the shape of the slabs to be trapezoid to reduce frost from moving the slabs. Hank thought Tom would visit the site with them. Gary remarked that before the election Lenny Reay had agreed to help out with moving the gate and he would check and see if he still agreed. Chris Sammons asked if anyone had approached Bill Rourke. No one had.

Nancy Buker explained in detail how the Readfield Trails Trust Fund was established and her report is included with the minutes. Nancy did an excellent job walking us through the process. We had two donations last year of \$100 and \$25 which is in the account. Milt ran into Jeff White, who donated the

\$100, on the trails and he said he was going to donate again this year. He is a traveling nurse and ends up in Readfield this time of year and loves the trails.

Suggested name for the Mill Stream trail was Mill Stream Pathway. Romaine Turyn asked if anyone liked Mill Stream Way. Will Harris made a motion to call the trail the Mill Stream Pathway and it was seconded by Nancy Buker. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Will Harris will request a public hearing because he is an abutter to the trail.

Milt Wright says we have six stewards for the trails, Milt Wright, Gary Keilty, Bob and Jeanne Harris, Hank Laidlaw and Chris Sammons. He wanted to ask Will Harris to be the Steward for the Mill Stream Pathway. Romaine Turyn made the motion for Will Harris to be the steward for the Mill Stream Pathway and it was seconded by Ken Clark. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Hank Laidlaw reported on the continuation of the Community Pathway behind the Union Meeting house. He says it has a whole new look. Trees were taken down and the huge debris pile was removed to make room for the blue stone. The blue stone is down from the end of the pathway to Church Road. There is a culvert by Church Road under the blue stone. Many volunteered for this project, Milt Wright, Bob Harris, Jeanne Harris, Gary Keilty, Ann Keilty and Hank Laidlaw. Milt Wright says there is poison ivy next to the pathway.

Ann Keilty reported that the signs were going to be put up Friday morning. Mark Birtwell was going to be at the Fairgrounds at 8 AM to start on the post holes. There are three yard arm signs for Church Road, Route 17 and the superintendent's office, coordinated by Tim Sniffen and Jerry Bley. Ann Keilty, Milt Wright, Bob Harris and Lydia Adelson all agreed to volunteer Friday morning.

Ann Keilty also reported on the wonderful presentation Ellen Blanchard did on the rocks surrounding the parking lot in the Fairgrounds on National Trails Day. Hank Laidlaw said it was a lively 2 ½ hour presentation. Ann is assisting Ellen stocking her pamphlets at the kiosk.

Gary Keilty wanted to get a packet to the Select Board before they went on retreat in August educating the board to hours volunteered by Trails volunteers equating to in kind donation of \$20,000. He had given it to Valarie Pomerleau but he didn't think she had shared it with the rest of the board. Milt suggested it be taken up at the next meeting when he was no longer on the committee. Romaine wanted to know why Milt didn't want to address package for Select Board tonight. Milt said it would be better to wait. Will said it would look like a set up if we sent something to the Select Board right off.

Gary Keilty detailed the ditching at the Fairgrounds so that heavy rains drain correctly. The tractor left tracks, so we need rakers to smooth it out. The rip rap for the trail started out with huge rocks, but then a load of a manageable size rocks was obtained. The Fairgrounds is turning into a multi-use complex. Nancy said we need a picnic table, other committees are afraid of vandalism and trash. A contractor was hired to eradicate the poison ivy.

Lydia Adelson reported on Heritage Days. Karen Dube is planning a triathlon for different age groups. Lydia thought we should have a booth for water, maps etc. Talked about getting shirts with Nancy's Trail sign for a picture to identify us as the Trails Committee. Let Gary and Ann know if you want a shirt.

Gary Keilty wants a small sub-committee to meet with Bill and Flo Drake about the Drake's property off Church Road.

**Milt Wright said the budget for fiscal year ending 6.30.15 had \$46 left over but Mark Britwell's time had to be charged off.**

**Milt Wright said he didn't receive any feedback from the Recreation Committee or Conservation Committee on the Ballfield Governance Document.**

**Other Business - Milt Wright filled everyone in on the damage to Torsey Pond Nature Preserve. Someone had ridden an ATV on the access and flattened 10 trees. A piece of plastic was found at the foot of the bridge that could have come off the ATV. Kennebec Land Trust wants to file charges.**

**Will Harris made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Ken Clark. The motioned passed by unanimous vote.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.**

**Submitted by:**

**Chris Sammons**

**Substitute Secretary**