

June 8, 2023

Trails Committee meeting

Nominations for chair:

Sue nominates Jonathan, seconded and approved unanimously

Secretary:

Thornton nominates rudi, Sue seconds; approved unanimously

Kevin had a lot of thoughts on roll-out plans, but not present tonight – has extensive experience as well

-Town forest

-Public-private ventures

SIGNAGE IMPORTANT in either scenario – VLCT has emphasized clarity

John notes that Mike Hebb's signs are very small

Jonathan is volunteering for The Ranger, helping monitor base of Monarch Hill and Kelsey Mtn with Brenda; learning a lot about Fairgrounds coverage vs town roads, not many requirements or asks from selectboard

Jonathan opines that public lands area particularly good starting point; also winter travel modes

Jonathan will forward different approaches regarding private lands to selectboard for consideration; Mike Hebb approach vs VLCT models as a starting point

John: Mike's approach "just works"

John further opines the Trails Committee could offer a solution to the Falls Hill trail issues; asserts the trail may not be valid (VTrans, VT statutes and processes laid out in Ancient Roads legislation say otherwise), feels Cal's offer of a deed easement for walking only is a good one to consider

Sue suggests Angells may consider year-to-year basis, Mike McPhetres has spoken with Tim

John notes that Cal is offering a deeded easement, not just year-to-year agreements

John further notes each Legal Trail has challenges specific to that location

Jonathan suggests developing waivers for volunteers – VLCT is recommending this approach but not requiring it

Kevin suggests only Tunbridge residents are involved with maintenance. What happens with a guest? And other questions

Sue notes couple in Stockbridge that allowed access, now not sure how to control it with increasing use  
Trail ambassadors or stewards?

John notes Mike Hebb has a single maintenance person, but each mile of trail has a 'guardian'

Jonathan: stewards are essential; how do we make decisions, such as closures, etc.

Jonathan notes Ritz-Carlton fully empowers a check-in person to make decisions – no waiting, or “I need to ask”

John suggests hard seasonal cut-offs so no guessing; Thornton suggests this misses some great opportunities and wants to emphasize role of stewards/monitors

Does the landowner/designated steward (e.g., Town Forest Committee) get the trumpcard? General feelings this is a good idea, but John notes that Mike H feels this is anathema; some advantages to keeping maintenance folks etc ‘out of the hair’ of landowners

Is there a default use, or is this up to the landowner?

Strafford website notes “trails are not conducive to bicycles”, but does not prohibit them – but does prohibit e-bikes

Jonathan notes trails are on selectboard agenda for Tuesday June 13, 2023 – 7 pm

TOPIC for NEXT MEETING? Agreements? Waivers? Jonathan hopes to print out what we have captured so far regarding these topics and distribute ahead of next meeting to facilitate discussion