

November 14, 2024

Meeting start 6pm Library

Trails Committee: Jonathan Bicknell, Kevin Rose, Sue Salster, Elisse Gabriel, Thornton Hayslett, dan 'rudi' ruddell

Public: Tess Mix, Brenda Field, Maureen McCullough, Ellen Hosford, Betty Brown, John Echeverria, Julia Collins, Peter Hayden

Public comment

John E

Expecting snowmobilers this winter

Horse event? (Karen Blow) Falls Hill ride was rerouted over different part of property, same as last year

John E open to skiing this winter

Questions UVTA example of possible bridge design for LT-3 because no mention of horses - ?

Brenda – kiosks on both town forest lots now– wants input

Ellen – wants VTXL bike trail to be on Trails Committee's radar (it is, several points raised have already been addressed via email with route planner)

Maureen – based on VT Public story, her feeling is that start of trails dispute was inappropriate posting; also had a bike rider pass her in carriage on class 4 road a week after the Ranger, no warning or deference to horses

Peter – thinking a lot about maintenance – both trails and class 4 roads; how do we address degradation

We're focusing on use, but erosion is the issue and water is central – not use- need to address maintenance; believes many of these may actually be WQ violations

"By doing nothing, we're giving up these roads"

Doesn't have answers, but perceives a need

Tess chimes in as well, notes top of Goodwin Hill also deteriorating

John E notes history of roads becoming unusable due to water, thinks Crossroad should be moved to a new right of way

Kevin notes many historic roads have become streams – e.g., Wetmore Rd in Strafford

Sue notes Clay Wight Rd was addressed due to erosion and for safety of residents

Sue: email from Sarah Heminway – Sarah disappointed in selectboard decision to open Falls Hill to multiple use, thinks a technical course is the goal of bike riders and prefers walking only

Sue discussed signs with Sarah, ordered some on her own: bottom of hill: 'Legal Trail, dead ends 0.3 mi'; top of hill: 'Legal Trail ends'

Brenda, Jonathan: Town Forest signs up at Wicopy Woods – kiosks have lots more room

Tess will bring kiosk issues back to Conservation Commission; Brenda asks for contact as she is trail steward and Forest Committee member

Kevin willing to make sign(s) for Drew Lot, rudi has shapefile and maker space students at White River Valley Middle School may be able to help with large format and lamination

Strawberry Hill trail has been deeded, but property has not been sold; Penfield asks we notify users that ONLY ACCESS IS FROM MORRILL RD

Kevin as trail steward for Strawberry Hill?

Discussion around Strawberry Hill stewardship: two gates, firepit and benches; need signage for parking; Tess mentions Woodstock parking delineation as a model

Ellen notes that historically the access was plowed in (during winter) so 5 or 6 cars could park; discussion that this may have been in road ROW but would need to be checked with long-time steward and new owners

Motion to designate Kevin Rose and Julia Collins as co-stewards of Strawberry Hill, passed unanimously

Tess wants to discuss the Overlander and other motorized vehicle use at next meeting

Jonathan broaches discussion of scope of discussions, trails vs class 4 roads etc

Sue notes class 4 roads need to be maintained every 3 years (town policy)

Peter mentions Forsythe sunken 6 ft, John E notes court has deferred to towns not wanting to maintain class 4 roads (he will send case in point)

Peter advocates for conscious decision rather than just letting things go

Second Thursday December (12<sup>th</sup>) for next meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm