

Tuesday March 15, 2011 Trails Committee Meeting

Members: Carol Butler, Theresa Potvin, David Demarest, Karen McNight, Natalie Coughlin, Howard McRea, Nancy McRea

Absent: Pat Lamphere, Tim Potvin

February 15, 2011 Minutes approved

Election of Officers:

Chair: Carol Butler approved.

Vice-Chair: Karen McNight approved.

Secretary: Nancy McRea approved.

David is still working on getting all prior minutes together

Handbooks are available online but distribution of hard copies is debated, options are whether to sell them or give them away for free. For now we will give them away for free, the committee will leave some in post office, country stores, and library. Howard and Nancy McRea will be out of town next week but they can distribute them the week after that.

Suggestions for selectboard regarding setbacks for trails is important. Problems with trail users going off trail onto neighboring properties and damaging agricultural fences along with the heavy traffic trails create were brought up as important reasons for a reasonable setback between a trail and private property. Karen suggested speaking with someone on zoning about what regulations are currently on the books.

Mtn. Gazette Article draft by Natalie had a couple small revisions and will be emailed out for further comment and Selectboard approval.

Mission Statement and Goals: Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 are both discussed

Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide guidance on the development and use of trails within Underhill with an emphasis on respecting property owners, sustaining the environment, and strengthening relationships within the community. Unanimously approved

Approved Following 3 Goals:

1. Educate the public in regard to trail etiquette, development of trails, and the appropriate use of private property.
2. Provide a forum where trail users/developers and property owners can voice their opinions and receive assistance with the development or closing of trails on private property.

3. Reroute the Crane Brook Trail off private property and construct a trail on Town owned land.

Signage: Importance of keeping people on trails to keep them from wandering on private property.

Suggestion made to speak with someone from VAST

Discussion of Mountain Gazette article

Assignments:

Natalie will be finishing article

David will be catching up on outdated minutes and emailing out for approval.

Theresa spoke with state people about wildlife/environmental issues of trail routing.

Inviting property owners, conservation commission, and Brad Holden for site visit on Town Land in May

Nancy will look at new zoning regulations in relation to trail setbacks.

Carol will contact Maria Germano.

Submitted by David Demarest March 15, 2011