

# Calais Trails Committee

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Town Office, 7 PM

Members present: Reed Cherington, Chair; Tom Blachly, co-chair; Denise Wilder; Michael Fullerton; Randy Allen; Bill Russell; Charlotte Hanna, recorder.

Also: Larry Bush, distinguished member of the public.

1. Meeting called to order by Reed at 7:00 pm.
2. Committee membership for the current year:  
All current members will continue to serve.  
Members willing to renew their terms upon continued appointment by the selectboard include Charlotte Hanna, Bill Russell, Gail Graham.
3. Election of (new) Chairperson. Charlotte nominated Tom as co-chair; Michael seconded; unanimously approved. (Reed reminisced a bit on the 10 years of the Trails committee and his chair-ship. He noted the generosity of residents, also.)
4. Relocation of a section of Robinson Ridge Trail (on Colis/Livaditis land by sugarhouse over by Worcester Road). Because of a bad washout, a new branch will move several hundred feet to the left. Reed and Randy know where it is. **Michael, Denise and Tom volunteered to help come June, and Reed will call them when he's ready.**
5. Re-decking of bridge on Ellis-Bruce Trail. Reed thinks \$200 will cover costs for new treated lumber.. Randy talked about "curfing," that is, incising the deck with a chainsaw to make it less slippery. Michael moved, Randy seconded **approval of purchase of 2" stock with necessary hardware**; unanimously approved. This will also include inspection and reinforcement of stringers if necessary.
6. Improved trail maps. **Ram has our trails mapped on GPS, so Randy will ask him for a copy of a map.** Reed says this is possible because no landowners have had problems with our current hand-mapping system. There will be a supply of maps at the town office, and members will also have copies. There is no new plan for distributing maps, just for making better ones.
7. Plan to paint additional trail markers. Steve Bronfield's fire delayed making of stencils, but now that his shop has been rebuilt, our project is in his queue. Markers are painted and ready for stencil. When ready, **Reed will enlist Bill's assistance.**
8. Calais & E. Montpelier Historical Societies have planned a program on trails for May 14, at 5 PM, 4 Corners Schoolhouse, E. Montpelier. Mary Stone from East Montpelier and **Tom and Reed from Calais will go.** There will be a potluck and a walk along Dodge Rd. (Templeton-Fairmont Trail) to a fabulous view. All welcome.
9. Caretaking existing trails.

- Steve Killoran has a written description so he can care for the Wheelock trail off Old West Church Road (mow regularly).
- Grant Ornstein mows the trail to Robinson Cemetery about once a year, but more mowing is needed by others. Reed will ask Jamie Mooreby about mowing from the Community Center to the cemetery, and offer to pay for 3-4 times a year.
- The Kaedings generally maintain the Ellis-Bruce trail.
- Darby maintains his trails and asks for help when needed.
- Bill and Liisa will monitor Hans-Peter section of Robinson Hill trail.
- Town Forest/Bliss Pond trails are not under our aegis. Steve Killoran is among bikers who use the trails. They have agreed informally not to add any new trails. It makes sense for this committee to take on guardianship, but since Steve Killoran would still be lead, we feel that they are all doing a great job. If they want us to take over at any time, they should ask us.

10. Trail planning activities in E. Calais. Charlotte described a walk with Randy along the East Calais falls. Randy is concerned that lots of people might access the area and trash it. There are also safety issues on the upper end where the falls are steep. But John Risse who owns the mill and the land down to the factory foundations is interested in having a trail there. And the Dwinell family may agree to our landowner contract.

A second possible trails goes from the transfer station up the field opposite, over the hill to Batten Road, then back to the village.

Together the 2 possible trails might make a figure 8.

**The committee will walk the area Monday May 21 at 4:00 pm, meeting in the post office parking lot.**

Other trail ideas: an East Calais connection to Marshfield and the Strannahan Forest, by one or two different routes. **What did we say about Eric Sorenson leading a walk?**

11. Finances: there is \$2,673.82 in the "bank" kept by the town. \$2,000 is restricted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm by consensus.