

Town of Glover
Trails Committee Minutes
November 11, 2023

Present: Peggy Day Gibson, Tim & Brenda Plastridge, Ann Creaven, David Olsen, Nick Lemon, and Michelle & Dominic Dominijanni.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Minutes from last meeting – The minutes from the Oct. 9, 2023 meeting were read and approved.
3. VOREC grant application due Dec. 15. Focus on Glover Park.
 - a. Application is complicated!
 - b. Focus on Glover Park. Previous state grants for Glover Park were:
 - i. \$13k grant in 2003
 - ii. \$25k in 2005 to buy 6.2 acre property
 - iii. \$6k in 2006 for field construction
 - c. Need letters of support. Suggestions:
 - i. Ray at the store
 - ii. principal of school -- Ann will ask
 - iii. Tin Barton-Caplin -- VT health dept
 - d. Playground: find a recreation specialist to look at plans?
 - e. New road is ok to use. Only one parking lot?
 - f. another possibility -- ice rink on town green? Got some info from Randy: other construction is going on there, and one issue is where to store it. Best to pursue this idea at another time.
4. Hester Webster Trail
 - a. Tim, John Wooten (VT Fish & Game), Tyler Brown, Peggy
 - b. Beaver are much busier, not only on the berm but also on the west side. Baffles aren't going to work. Pipes are 12-18" above lake level, maybe another drain at that end?
 - c. Trapping probably the only workable solution.
 - d. Came to agreement on this -- season is Oct. April. Landowner needs to secure the trapper, then the trapper takes care of reporting. Asked Fish & Game for a list of trappers.
 - e. Have a copy of the report to take to select board. Brenda was asked to attend meeting and it would be good to have someone from trails committee also.
 - f. Bridge -- want us to get a permit to rebuild it.
5. Bridge from Parker Rd. to Young hayfield. The Youngs will be doing some work on the ditch. The bridge will go from the road to the hayfield, not through the cornfield. Approved by Youngs and the town, will build in the spring.
6. Greensboro Land Trust -- talked about connecting trail(s) to the Black Hills. They do not want to go by Paddock Hill. Two other possibilities: Mud Pond/Rt. 16, Hinman Rd toward Tamarack Ranch Rd. See email to Peggy below.
7. The next Trails Committee meeting is Jan. 8, 2024, 7 pm.
8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Dominijanni

Email about connecting trails:

From: **Chris Steel** <chrissteel4@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 5:38 PM
Subject: Re: Black Hills Trails
To: Peggy Day Gibson <peggydayvt@gmail.com>

Hi Peggy,

We had our GCC meeting today and I thought I would update you on where we are at on the Black Hills trail connectivity and some of the research I have done. Nancy Hill and Clive Gray have been a great help with background etc. Erika Karp also sits on the GCC and knows a great deal of the history.

Nancy updated me on the Hinman Road / Tamarack Ranch Road discussions. I understand that where it was left was that Graham Freeman and Jaimie Murdock both expressed some reservations but a willingness to discuss and said they would speak to each other. I understand that has not yet happened so after perhaps a couple of years that does not imply a great deal of enthusiasm. However I have not met either of them yet and would like to do so as the new GCC Chair to see where they are at on this now.

I also had an email exchange with Lynn MacNamara at TNC and they are supportive of a linkage along Tamarack Ranch Road to Hinman Road but are NOT supportive of any new trail cutting on the Paddock Hill land they own as they want to keep that in an untouched condition. I did walk the Paddock Hill trail 10 days ago to check it out and it is clearly infrequently travelled with quite a bit of tree fall uncleared and a UVM tree planting research area at the top of the trail that is actually planted across it. The last person to sign the log at the top of Paddock Hill before me was in July! The trail itself, as I am sure you know, does not go to the Paddock Hill summit so that is a little bit of off-piste travel.

I was in touch with Kerry O'Brien at VLT on other matters and she was in principle supportive of the possibility of a trail linkage through the Mud Pond Forest. The logging trails that exist there could be connected into the Black Hill system by extending the trail marked "VLT Trail" on your Black Hills Map to the West to connect with the Mud Pond Forest logging trail that also runs along the town line. I have attached the Mud Pond Forest Map below.

Through Kerry I will also follow-up with Dan Kilborn re trail connectivity into the Mud Pond Forest.

I have not had any interaction so far with Richard Carbonetti. It looks like you have that covered!

Overall the GCC are supportive of some linkup between the trail systems. The preference is to do that in a way which mitigates environmental impact and so trying to connect Tamarack Ranch to Hinman would be the preferred initial point of linkage as the trails substantially exist. It's more a question of getting the approval of the land-owners which may still be problematic. I have an action to discuss with each of them.

We don't have any budget at GCC for trail cutting and maintenance so our role would likely be facilitative in support of an outcome in which the trails were linked and an integrated map produced.

I would be delighted to meet to discuss further. I am away from early next week for the balance of November but could meet up in December.

Best regards

Chris

