

Trails Meeting Minutes
Nov 28
6 pm
Dover Town Offices

Attendance: Ryan Holton, Jacob White, Adam Levine, Tim Hunt, Andy McLean, Mike Purcell, Elia Hamilton, Randy Terk, Kelly Pawlak

1. **Master trail inventory.** No updates submitted. Kelly Pawlak is maintaining the master.
2. **Primary area of focus** - Focus on the center (Valley Trail) and work outward. Andy McLean – suggested we get the main corridor established first
3. **Elia’s dream network** - Elia presented his map. Red trails are existing and yellow are proposed.
 - a. Andy McLean went to the Tannery Wildlife Trustees meeting and Edie Mas brought up she was thinking of having a walking trail from Butterfield to Mount Snow. Maybe the sewer easement (cleared) gives the public the right to use it?
 - b. Invite Edie Mas to the next meeting.
 - c. There is a piece of Deer Creek land that is going up for tax sale and the town may end up with it.
4. **Permitting** – When discussing some of Elia’s proposed trails, Randy Terk asked if we know what areas would require Act 250? Jake shared that anything “wet” could be a red flag. Elia got the idea from Kingdom Trails that it was easier to move forward and not get bogged down with Act 250 if you are a 501c3 vs a business or a municipality. It also depends who your 250 commissioner is – if they are picky or not. And you have to be aware of the environmental triggers (wetlands, etc.) and avoid those areas.
5. **Group Format**
 - a. Do we want to work with a local 501c3 like the Wilmington Fund or start our own? Randy Terk suggested we start our own.
 - b. Kingdom Trails started out donation-based and then went to selling trail passes. If we are on USFS trails and charge for trail passes then we would probably have to pay a portion to USFS.
 - c. Randy Terk suggested we ask the towns of Dover and Wilmington if they would earmark a portion annually and/or front the money to form a 501c3.
 - d. Need a name for the group – something like Community Trails Interest Group. Group decided to think about it and bring ideas back to next meeting.
6. **Main objectives/strong trail system attributes**

- a. Connecting trail (multi-use, non-motorized) from Dover to Wilmington.
- b. Parking - in a central location. Howe Farm, Saloon, Mount Snow parking lots, buying a piece of land or Rt 100 all brought up. Important for riders to be able to go to their cars, change and then be close to businesses, especially a place for food and drink. Ideally, they are a quick walk or bike ride to businesses. Group was encouraged to think about parking and come to next meeting with ideas.
- c. Core area of focus that has access for beginners and expert users alike
- d. Visually marked trails – user friendly
- e. Find a way to link all lodges and businesses together
- f. Smooth and improved path – must be sustainable
- g. Lengthy discussion about the types of trails needed
 - i. A walk in the woods, like Hathaway Trail or Dover Town Forest.
 - ii. Hike with a view, like Haystack pond.
 - iii. There is a need for trails that the average family/dog can navigate.
 - iv. Could we have cabins you can rent for the night.
 - v. Back country is also appealing.
 - vi. Telling a story will attract more people. For instance the big boulder in Whitingham, a special tree, wildlife, Hoot Toot and Whistle, waterfall, etc.
 - vii. How many miles do we need. 60 like Kingdom Trails? Should we let demand drive it? Ascutney did not take long to attract participants, 3-5 years. Ascutney has trails on and off the ski area

7. VMBA

- a. Tim Hunt – reached out to Tom Stuessy, Executive Director at VMBA. Report to group. Tom would like to see this group as an arm of VMBA. He would like to come down and talk to us as a group. He would like to see at least 5 people who are vested in the group. He wants to see some minimal organization. There are some nice benefits to working with VMBA

8. Marketing

- a. If you do it right it could go quick – there is a lot of pent up demand for bike trails in southern VT
- b. Take advantage of apps like trail finder and all trails
- c. Have a map
- d. Put on town websites
- e. Kiosks to promote businesses.

9. Snowmobiling/VAST

- a. Adam Levine attending to represent the snowmobile club. Are folks using snowmobile trails for hiking/biking in the summer? Yes, in some areas. VMBA could help with this. Groton is an example. Where is the overlap? There is strong advantage to working with snowmobile clubs – large membership and man power. 1500 members in local Stump Jumpers.
10. **Maintenance** – should put this on agenda for future meeting

Next Meeting:

Monday, Jan 9th, 2017

6 – 7 pm at the Dover Town Offices

Scribe – k. pawlak 12.3.16