Craftsbury Trails Meeting Summary

Craftsbury Town Hall

April 22, 2025

Participants:

Ollie Burruss

Matt Krebs

John MacKinnon

John Brodhead

Julie Higgins

Kathryn Prentice

Amelia Fritz

Rudy Chase

Joyce Chase

Gina Campoli

1. Additional work needed to complete the Sterling and Village to Common (V2C) Trails

Gina explained that the town's 2023 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant budget has up to $500 dollars for metal trail wayfinding signs for the Sterling Trail. She has ordered 10 (@$50 each) that will lead users from and back to the Dustan parking lot through the Sterling campus. They will use the same design and CT logo as the existing trail signs and be manufactured by Sign Works in Farmington ME. Once past the Sterling President's House, heading west, there will be painted blazes using a CT logo stencil provided by a COC volunteer.

There are 5 square metal posts remaining from the VOREC project that will be used as well as some signs installed on existing posts.

Gina also ordered 10 V2C signs that will guide users from Dustan Field to where the trail turns left off of Old Lang Syne Rd and from the Village to the where the trail turns off of Creek Rd. She and John Brodhead will donate those signs. John Mackinnon suggested that Sterling may be able to pitch in.

V2C will also be blazed with the logo stencil and the COC will manufacture and donate wooden signs at either end of the trail that acknowledge the generosity of land owners and ask users to respect private property, remain on the designated trail and control and clean up after their dogs. There will also be signs at intersections with private trails and driveways asking users to remain on the designated trail.

The group discussed trail etiquette and how to better inform users of recreating responsibly. The signs at either end of the V2C trail are a good start.

Gina pointed out the recreate responsibly page of the CT website found here:https://www.craftsburytrails.info/recreate-responsibly She suggested that a copy of the page be printed, water proofed and placed at the Dustan Field kiosk and at the Village stores.

Once the signs are finished and shipped, volunteer efforts will be organized to install them. Gina agreed to drive to Bethel ME to pick them up to save costs.

Volunteers will be solicited and a work date set once the signs have arrived - in the next several weeks.

Ollie agreed to take Rudy on a trail visit in the very near future.

2. An event to announce the trails' completion and introduce them to the community - tentatively set for May 30, 2025

The group heartily agreed that a "trails grand opening" would be a fun event. It would include snacks and guided trail tours. The group chose Friday late afternoon/early evening on May 30th as a tentative date. This assumes the signs/blazes are up and painted. Julie indicated that she is eager to have her Craftsbury students participate and be involved in volunteer efforts.

3. Green Space funding and what might come next including trail connections starting at the Green Space to E. Craftsbury as well as Black Bird Bistro.

Gina said she heard last month that the town did not succeed in obtaining the RTP grant to improve and create a more accessible trail on the Green Space property. The competition this year was intense. The state received $5.3 million in requests with approximately $600,000 available to disburse.

Ollie recently visited the site and indicated that moving the existing trail to the north, staying out of wet areas, building a raised walkway and connecting with a supportive landowner to the south was a future option. He is in discussions with several landowners on getting to both East Craftsbury as well as a spur to Black Bird.

Ollie will continue this planning with land owners and estimating costs both materials and labor

4. Craftsbury Trails website

Matt agreed to making sure trail maps for both the Sterling Trail and V2C are available on the site and via Strava and other commonly used trail apps.