Craftsbury Trails (CT) May 4, 2026 - Meeting Summary

Committee Members Present: Ollie Burruss, Adrian Owens, Matt Krebs, Gina Campoli

Members of the Public Present: Susie Houston, Linda Ramsdell, John Brodhead, Amelia Fritz, Sheldon Miller (via Zoom)

Spring Trail Conditions:

- Sterling Trail (ST): Adrian indicated that Sterling volunteers cut back brush and did light maintenance last week. The trail is ready for use

- Village to Common (V2C) Ollie has been out working on drainage and installing blazes. (Stakes are needed for field blazes.) V2C is ready for use although the group agreed to make a public announcement later this week after Wednesdays expected heavy rains.

Summer Trail Maintenance Plans:

There are no major projects in the works. Ollie plans to coordinate with the Royans on improvements to the steep hill just beyond the Sterling "hidden meadow"off of Old Lang Syne Rd.

Mowing the field portions of the ST and the Hidden Meadow will be challenging this year without the help of Sterling students under Adrians guidance. Also there is uncertainty about the status of the upper portion of the ST given the expected changes in ownership. See item below. Adrian, Ollie, Matt and Gina/John will have to coordinate on ST mowing once the trail's status is clear. Additional volunteers might also be sought. Ollie will reach out to land owners at the south end of the V2C (Rudy and Sally) to see if they would assist again this year with mowing. The group concluded that a major volunteer work day is not needed at this point. Ollie mentioned that if Kory's schedule allows and he's willing a long term maintenance plan for the ST may be in order.

Sterling College Property and Future Public Trail Access:

There is uncertainty about future ST public access. The top (eastern) portion crosses Houston House and Cedar Cottage properties both of which are expected to be sold in the coming weeks/months. The College has not taken steps to legally protect trail access such as the establishment of permanent trail easements. It's believed the interested purchasers of Cedar Cottage are willing "to work with CT" on public access. CT is eager to meet with new owners and share our vision for running, biking, hiking and outdoor recreation opportunities adjacent to the Common. Linda Ramsdell of Headwaters Community Trust, now in negotiations with Sterling to purchase the campus, reaffirmed that public trail use is in sync with HCT's goals and priorities.

Status of Village to East Craftsbury/Bistro Trail Planning - Route and Costs:

There are several steps necessary to refine the route. Discussion of costs is not yet possible.

Ollie will explore the new Bistro snow machine trail and coordinate with the Sedores on a link south of East Craftsbury Rd to the Bistro.

The cedar swamp on the east side of the Green Space property is very challenging. The land rises steeply to the east adjacent to the swamp There was some discussion on the feasibility of a boardwalk. Ollie would like to continue exploring options on the property to the south and will reach out to the landowners. The group agreed that it would be prudent to schedule some time now with the state wetlands biologist - Shannon Morrison - to better understand wetland site limitations. Visits take months to occur. Gina will reach out to Shannon.

Ollie reported that the remaining portions of the route are on well drained soils, use established trails and logging roads and are owned by willing landowners.

Website Maintenance:

Gina will take another stab at updating the the website and adding the ST and V2C maps and will solicit volunteer assistance if need be.

Grants:

The grant that funded planking for the V2C bridges has aprox $1000 remaining. Ollie noted that the vendor may not have submitted an invoice. He will coordinate with Michelle to determine status. The groups agreed that any remaining funds should be used to purchase stakes and new blazes.

Additional Craftsbury Trails Committee Members:

Gina will inquire about Matt Tytel's status and see if he wishes to remain on the Committee. She will also place a request on FPF for interested new members to be in touch.