

MINUTES
MEANS WOODS TRUSTEES MEETING
25 OCTOBER 2018
Middlebury Town Offices 8:30 a.m.

1. Additions or amendments to Agenda -- none

Present: Norm Bloom, Mark Spritzer, Cindy Hill, guest Jaime Montague.
Absent: Brian Carpenter, John Murphy.

2. Update on Town Forest Grant --

No one has received a copy of the draft report, which had been anticipated over the summer. Cindy heard from Ashar a couple weeks ago, stating that he had received the draft a few weeks prior to that communication but had been too busy to send it out; Ashar had also advised that another state-wide meeting was required and that the consultants wanted us to hold another local meeting as well.

Cindy will email Ashar and the consultant and ask for an update and that the draft report and schedule be sent as soon as possible.

3. Update and discussion regarding trail and signage conditions --

Jaime reported that she does garbage pickup and removing things that are down. Some youth she works with picking up in there, Mary Hogan students as part of a MALT program. She states that the trails look great at this point. They put new gravel down on Peterson Terrace side of the TAM within Means Woods.

Jaime reported that MALT hosted an intern from the GIS program in the College, reconciled the old trail maps with what's on the ground. Includes a new trail that the bike club installed -- which looks like it is outside the Means Woods property on the adjacent private property.

Trustees reviewed the map, attached to these minutes, and discussion was held as to whether it accurately reflected trails which the Trustees desire to be maintained and open at this point, as well as discussion about the impact of the new bike trail that connects with the TAM at two points in Means Woods. There was particular discussion about a trail represented by a dotted line in the southerly portion of the map, and whether it was one the Trustees had intended to discontinue. It was agreed that this would be reviewed on the ground at the next field meeting/work session.

It was agreed hold a field meeting regarding a work plan for trails and signage on Sunday 11/11 at 11:15 at Means Woods.

4. Update on Old Town Road legal trail, work in right of way permit

There has been no additional information on this. Cindy will email Kathleen requesting a copy of this permit and an update on any issues or concerns that arose.

5. Update and discussion on budget

Discussion was held regarding planning for annual report to Selectboard and budget request. Budget items might include:

- marking boundaries
- trail signage
- coordinate with Battell Trust? Surveyor for boundaries?

Discussion was held regarding what methods are used elsewhere for marking public lands boundaries. Jaime stated that the most common boundary marking in other public lands is marking at points of natural public access, such as where trails enter.

Mark stated that these markings can just be paint on trees. We could have more formal signage at key locations, and want to minimize markings. Corner markings of the property might be desirable.

Discussion was had regarding obtaining a price estimate for a surveyor. Cindy will contact Tony from Battell Trust, contact surveyor Don Johnson for an estimate, and other surveyors, and will contact regional planning about potential grants.

It was agreed next meeting -- November 29th -- would include discussion of include grant, budget, signage language

6. Update regarding MALT signage grant:

Jaime reported that MALT rec'd a 2-year grant for two projects. One was significant improvements on the TAM, most of which took place this past summer. The other was updating all the signage on the 15 TAM kiosks. They want to post on the kiosks a map that is UV protected with additional info regarding the various trail sections. Summer intern worked on the zoomed-in maps of each section. Think about any other language that we would want on the kiosk. We could look for other funds to address the Means Woods kiosk.

Mark can draft some historic language up based on the documents about history of Means Woods. Will draft and email out for the November meeting.

7. Update regarding MALT MOU

Kathleen Ramsey was going to provide the ones between the Town and MALT in other locations. Cindy will email Kathleen on this again.

Jaime: MALT does not have an agreement with Battell Trust or Means Woods Trust. Jaime will provide us with copies of some of their agreements regarding some of the other parcels owned by the Town.

Jaime stated that about 85% of the TAM is on private property with legal easements. The areas where they don't have easements are on Town lands. The Town Plan identifies the TAM as a key element of culture and recreation etc, but that is not legally binding. She inquired whether this means that the Town can discontinue or relocate the TAM on Town Lands.

Cindy noted that an agreement regarding Means Woods must be a three-way agreement between the Town, MALT and the Means Woods Trustees. She also noted that the situation is confusing in that the TAM through Means Woods is on a public road/trail.

The Means Woods Trustees agreed that we will each come up with bulletpoints in regards to what should be in agreements -- as to Town and Malt and Means Woods.

8. Other new business: Discussion was had as to whether we can hold an annual stakeholders meeting regarding Town Lands. With Town, Battell Trustees, Means Woods Trustees, Malt, the bike club or any other stakeholders regarding Town Lands in Middlebury, in order to coordinate efforts and policies?

NEXT MEETINGS:

FIELD MEETING regarding a work plan for trails and signage on Sunday 11/11 at 11:15 at Means Woods. Any members of the public attending should be dressed for the weather and for uneven trail footing.

TRUSTEES MEETING to be held November 29th, 8:30 a.m. at the Middlebury Town Offices.

Adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

--CEH