

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: October 7, 2022

To: CVTC Committee

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Agenda for October 28, 2022 Meeting

The next CVTC meeting is set for Friday October 28, 2022 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Carrabassett Valley Town Office. The proposed agenda is provided below. I'd like to make sure we leave enough time to review some of the significant events of this season: what went well, what could be improved, opportunities to work together next season.

1. Decisions and Actions from our June 17 Meeting (Ed)

I have attached our "Decisions and Actions" document from the last meeting for reference. Recall that these were sent out for review shortly after the meeting. A quick review of progress against our open actions.

| Item | Status/Comment |
|--|--|
| CVTC MOU | Complete! |
| Resort base area connector trail upgrade | Complete! |
| E-MTB trial period | Complete! |
| Stoney Brook | Season plans executed! |
| Trail signage, next phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final review needed but Sugarloaf likely on board with branded sign at OC roadside.• Review of budget and \$ available needed to order material for 2023. |
| Establish new winter riding corridor at OC | Josh worked a plan for improved Route 27 Connector (see attached). More discussion needed. |

2. 2022 Trail Construction and Maintenance Workplan Recap (Josh)

- Successes
- Challenges
- Plans for the remainder of 2022 and 2023

3. Account Review (Dave C/Ed)

- Review alignment of budgets and plans

4. Fundraising

- Updates as appropriate on USDA grant (Deb)
- 2023 Grant Cycle and plans for application (Deb, Josh, All)

5. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates (Lloyd)

- Welcome back Dave C!
- Penobscot Nation
- Other

6. CRNEMBA Updates (Warren)

- Several current board members have decided that it's time for them to peel off the front and let some new folks pull for a while. Warren Gerow, Mark Schwarz, Kimberly Truskowski, Mandy Farrar, Indira Gowell, and Cathy Morton all deserve the community's gratitude for the sustained effort they've each contributed to the cause. They are compelled to step down for a variety of reasons, but fortunately each has made clear that this does not mean the end of their contribution. CRNEMBA will be filling these seats over the coming weeks and months.

7. Sugarloaf Updates (Adam/Brenna/Tom)

- Updates as appropriate.

8. Maine Huts and Trails Updates (Wolfe)

- Updates as appropriate.

9. Winter Riding (Tim/Josh/Tom)

Review plans and needs for the upcoming season. There seems to be emerging consensus that separate Nordic and biking systems are the long goal.

- Route 27 Connector: this year?
- New corridor: this year? Grooming? Tom reports that Sugarloaf needs to focus on improvements to Nordic grooming before committing resources to winter biking.
- Single track grooming plans for the season: continued volunteer effort?

10. E-MTB Trial Period Review (Ed)

There isn't really any central repository for data so we'll need to rely on our combined experiences and perspectives.

- Prevalence of e-MTB use
- Successes
- Challenges
- Plans for north side of 27 (e.g., MH&T, Narrow Gauge, etc.)

11. Event Review

Review of significant events this season: results, what went well, what should be considered for change, etc. This meant to be a free form discussion and I hope for wide participation but nonetheless have nominated folks to lead each review.

- ESC/EWS Recap/Review (Adam/Brenna)
- NEMBAFest Recap/Review (Dave H)
- CRNEMBA Adventure Ride (Warren)

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: 19Jun2022

To: CVTC Committee

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Decisions and Actions from June 17, 2022 Meeting

The following decisions and actions were taken from the June 17, 2022 CVTC meeting.

12. Meeting Minutes

- The group agreed that this “decisions and actions” format, with its focus outcomes, could serve as our meeting minutes. Deb will no longer record detailed minutes covering the discussion leading up to decisions and actions. I will endeavor to include key information reported during the meetings. Also note that while usually roughly chronological, results are documented here by topic heading, not necessarily order in the order they occurred during the meeting.

13. Memorandum of Understanding

- All parties agreed that the MOU is ready for signature. MH&T may amend their Statement of Interest during some future revision.
- Ed will send the document around for signature.

14. Fundraising

- Deb relayed that the first submittal for reimbursement under the USDA grant is pending next month.
- Deb pointed out the increasing competitiveness of the grant process, particularly RTP. Charlie highlighted the need for ridership data to support grant applications.

15. 2022 Trail Workplan

- Josh and Spence reported on the good progress being made at Stoney Brook and thought a soft opening for some riding would be possible in a week or so with hopes of a solid loop by NEMBAFest.
- No decisions at this point about construction projects other than Stoney Brook and the volunteer-based work at the OC this season. There was consensus that a smaller, more visible project would be a good addition if one could be identified and resources were available. No specific action taken.

16. Signage Update

- Josh and the Town trail crew have installed most of the remaining posts/signs on south side of 27, Narrow Gage, and related single track.
- Josh and Tim have compiled a list of posts/signs needed for north of route 27 and Josh provided a preliminary estimate of \$5k.

- Ed will follow up with Mark/Deb on signage account balance to see if a shortcoming may need to be addressed.
- Josh will order six aluminum Carrabassett Valley Trails signs to replace the current vinyl ones at several trailhead kiosks. Dimensions may be adjusted for aesthetics on kiosks. See attachment.
- Ed will follow up with Ethan about a branded CVTrails sign to replace the existing generic “Mountain Biking Daily” sign on the roadside OC sign.
- There was strong agreement re-expressed that good, consistent signage was necessary for projecting the character we all want for the CVTrails network.

17. Connector Trail

- The Trail Planning Subcommittee is working this, focusing on a short-term solution that could be implemented to support some of this season’s events.

18. Sugarloaf Updates

- Tom provided attached OC workplan update and Adam and Brenna provided a brief update of trail work on the Mountain and summer events.
- No specific actions taken.

19. Maine Huts and Trails Updates

- Huts available on a rental basis only over the summer/fall season.
- NEMBA has SBH rented for NEMBAFest
- Wolfe offered use of the huts in some to-be-determined way as a waypoint/gathering spot for mountain bikers. CRNEMBA agreed to “think about” ways to support the generous offer.

20. E-MTB’s

- Concerns were raised around community messaging for e-bike use. The e-bike committee will work something up for review with the intent of posting it on the Trail Conditions webpage and trailhead kiosks (perhaps an abbreviated message on the kiosks with QR code directing folks to the Trail Conditions page)
- Dave H took the action of researching and reporting back the data on e-bikes that might be available through NEMBA for the upcoming NEMBAFest.
- MH&T reported that Class 1 e-bike access to SBH for NEMBAFest could not be a priority for them right now. The necessary actions (permissions, etc.) for such access might be addressed at some future date.

21. Winter Biking

- Adam to check in with Tom for availability of resources to help brush out corridor identified at the OC between the lodge and Route 27. Sterling and Josh to coordinate.
- Charlie reiterated that ideally the fat biking and Nordic trail systems should be separate. There was general consensus around this idea but noted that the current overlap was driven by a need for riding connectivity.

Attachment: Update from Tom Butler and Sterling

Outdoor Center Trail Crew Work Plan:

The following is a general overview for the summer.

- All major Nordic intersections will be thinned out to open up sight lines for improved safety. Appreciate John Freeman and John Mathieu for going around with Sterling, identifying areas of concern. We'll be thinning out primarily via:
 - Brush cutting
 - Tree removal where trees have grown beyond brush cutting size
 - Limbing branches to reduce trail overhangs.lifting
 - Debris will be cut up and brought into the woods out of sight.
- Brush cutting has started on Moose Bog and will continue with Old Race Trail, Warming Hut and Highland up to Bobcat Alley intersection. Once they're through this, they'll be moving on to other tighter trails to improve grooming operations.
- Looking to rehab what was Trail 33, Owl's Head and reintroduce that into the network.
- Our flail mower broke early last summer after mowing a few trails and we were unable to secure parts to repair. We now have parts so mower will be back in action hopefully by the beginning of July. This is a non tracked mower so it will not affect any mountain bike trails that exist on nordic trails.
- The AOEC was looking to have a Nordic trail cut to the back door of their lodge which would connect to the Narrow Gauge Spur. This is something that would need some planning and consultation with the Town's forestry committee and the Town's logging company. More to come as this conversation and planning evolves.
- Last winter, the Capital Region Nordic Association out of Albany NY held a veteran's event at the Outdoor Center through the AOEC which was a huge success. During this week long event, activities culminated with a biathlon race with laser rifles. This was the showstopper of the week and went so well, that the AOEC and CRNA would like to hold more of these events next season. Since there aren't bullets involved, we can safely host these events in the stadium area of the network. Since it's an adaptive course, the range distances are shorter than in regular biathlons so the area would be suitable for this.
- Migrant brush cutting team will be back at Sugarloaf doing trail work this fall. We will have them again at the Outdoor Center to help with some trails like they did on Highland and Bobcat Alley last season. We will be hiring a chipper for when they are here to sufficiently clear all cuttings.
- Did a signage walk through with Ethan and Noelle last week looking to update all of our signs. Regarding the sign at the end of the road we discussed a more appropriate and branded mountain bike trail sign. Ethan working with Puella Designs on these upgrades. Ethan was going to reach out to Ed regarding the mountain bike sign at the end of the road. Timeline on the signage we looked at would be for this coming winter.
- General
 - Wax room being torn down and rebuilt this summer.
 - All decks getting repainted
 - Rink liner was pulled up and will be moved to the back corner of the rink
 - Dock put back in yesterday
 - Wood delivered, stacked and chimney being cleaned in early August.

Trail Design Report

Prepared by Joshua Tauses

The following is a brief outline of trail design related to user access to the Adaptive Outdoor Center. This potential connector may also provide a portion of the proposed winter access corridor for bicycles. Included concept map, descriptions and recommendations for moving forward. This document should be combined with prior recommendations from 2022 CVTC for winter access. The following is prepared for the Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee and the Adaptive Outdoor Center.

Goals: Provide trail access to AOC, either winter only, or summer use included
Provide for winter bicycle access separate from nordic corridors
Consider development of biathlon shooting range for non-bullet, laser rifles.

Notes: Recent planning discussions amongst CVTC members to provide winter access for bicycles to alleviate use of nordic corridors, combined with requests from the AOC for trail access should be combined to make maximum use of available terrain between both Outdoor Center facilities, the greater Touring Center network and the Narrow Gauge Pathway. In addition, access to the biathlon range will provide for programming by all organizations involved.

Adaptive Outdoor Center Connector:

Goals:

-Provide user access to Adaptive Outdoor Center from greater Nordic Center Network

Challenges:

-Bridge Crossing small brook behind AOC, permitting, site work, construction

-Proximity to downstream wetland area

-Future grooming, mowing, and general trail maintenance

-Addition of yet another trail intersection within a region of the Touring Center with excess, providing difficult navigation for some users.

Stats:

-Approx 300ft linear foot trail corridor

-8-10ft wide surface

- Minimal forest clearing required, cleanup from past harvesting
 - Estimate 20ft bridge crossing structure, with additional site work construction needed.
- Determination for capacity required

Suggestions:

- Determine if this corridor is winter only, or summer access included
- Summer access trail will require surfacing gravel to provide sustainable tread for adaptive users, providing direct access to Narrow Gauge Pathway
- Determine maintenance responsibilities for winter and summer use
- Seek contractor estimate for bridge crossing construction
- Produce actual trail design, bridge estimate, gravel estimate and construction costs estimate fall 2022.

Rough Cost Estimate:

- Bridge ? \$20,000
- Gravel (summer use trail?) 200yds @ \$25/yd \$5,000
- Equipment \$1,500
- Labor \$5,000

Laser Rifle Biathlon Range:

Goals:

- Provide Biathlon opportunities at Touring Center Network for programming

Challenges:

- Permanent vs portable setup per event
- Location of approx 60x100 cleared
- Location proximity to facilities, parking, spectator area
- Location proximity of existing nordic race loop

Stats:

- Portable biathlon range owned by AOC
- Permanent options due exist, however not directly accessed by parking, facilities

Suggestions:

-AOC and Loaf have expressed interest in utilizing portable range setup in the stadium area for the immediate future. This likely provides the best experience for all involved in the near term

-Determine in future years need for permanent location for shooting range to satisfy challenges noted above

Winter Bicycle Access Trail:

Goals:

-Provide winter bicycles user specific connector of Narrow Gauge Pathway and Outdoor Center Facility to alleviate use of existing nordic corridors

-Expand groomed winter bike trail volume

Challenges:

-Steeper terrain grades, vs desired trail grade >6% will require multiple switchback style turns, may provide challenge for bi-directional trail

-Bi-directional trail required 6-8ft wide?

-Grooming, and grooming equipment

-Addition of yet another trail intersection within a region of the Touring Center with excess, providing difficult navigation for some users.

-Corridor still requires short ride on nordic race loop and stadium to access parking, facility

Stats:

-Approx 2000 linear foot trail

-Significant cleanup from past forest harvesting

-Some new forest clearing required

Suggestions:

-Create winter only access trail, non-surfaced.

-Combine this section with proposed AOC connector to complete corridor to Outdoor Center parking, facility

-Commitment required for grooming, mowing, general maintenance

-Determine access to additional proposed winter bicycle access at the Outdoor Center

Rough Cost Estimate:

-Equipment \$1,500

-Labor \$5,500