

## Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



**Date:** January 10, 2023

---

**To:** Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC)

---

**From:** Ed Gervais

---

**Subject:** Agenda for January 20, 2023 Meeting

---

The next CVTC meeting is set for Friday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Carrabassett Valley Town Office. The proposed agenda is provided below; we can add as needed. You will notice that I designate a “lead” in parenthesis for each item. This is by no means intended to limit contributions from other attendees. Rather its simply my plea for someone to put some thought into the topic ahead of the meeting :).

1. Decisions and Actions from our October 28, 2023 Meeting (Ed)  
I have attached our “Decisions and Actions” document from the last meeting for reference. We have a couple of open items still in work: CVTrails branded signage on 27 at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center and E-MTB policy recommendations.
2. Emerging Work Plans for 2023 (Josh)  
While we are still a few months away from boots on the ground, the trail maintenance and construction season will be upon us soon and planning is underway.
  - Stoney Brook parking area.
  - Continued work on the Stoney Brook trails.
  - Other planned projects.
  - Maintenance. The need continues to grow with the network. We ought to discuss the need for an increase in budget. There has been some offline discussion around this; perhaps we can finalize during the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Branded CVTrails sign for the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center (Ed)
  - We are working to get underway to investigate cost, etc.
4. NEMBAFest (Dave/Brenna)
  - It seems very likely that NEMBAFest will be returning to Carrabassett Valley again in 2023. There were areas of potential improvement identified from the event last year. Are there things CVTC members, either individually or collectively, can do to help make sure the upcoming event is a success.
5. Winter Riding (Tim Flight/Mark Schwarz/Tim Gerencer)
  - CRNEMBA volunteers have been grooming and despite the limited snow there has been some good riding and lots of bikes out.

- Unaware walkers and the damage they cause to softer trails remains a frustration to they people who put their time into grooming.
6. Sugarloaf Fat Tire Race (Brenna)
    - Registration for the Sugarloaf Fat Tire Race is open on BikeReg for Sunday morning February 12. CRNEMBA generally helps with course layout, etc. Are their additional resource needs for this year's event?
  7. Pump Track (Tom)
    - There has been some work/thought put into a new pump track in the past. Perhaps we can recap and set tasks to make progress toward a plan for construction and funding.
    - Do we need to re-establish a group to work on this?
  8. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates (Lloyd/Dave C)
    - Penobscot Nation.
    - Other updates as appropriate.
  9. CRNEMBA Updates (Warren)
    - Updates as appropriate.
  10. Sugarloaf Updates (Adam/Brenna/Tom)
    - Updates as appropriate.
  11. Maine Huts and Trails Updates (Seth/Wolfe)
    - Updates as appropriate.

## Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



**Date:** 31ct2022

**To:** CVTC Committee

**From:** Ed Gervais

**Subject:** Decisions and Actions from Oct. 28, 2022 Meeting

The following highlights, decisions and actions were taken from the subject CVTC meeting.

### 12. Review of Past Actions and Decisions

Past actions were reviewed.

- Update: at the end of the meeting, Adam relayed that Sugarloaf is fine with a CVTC branded placard on the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center sign on route 27. This would replace the generic orange “mountain biking” sign.
- Plans for the next phase of the trail signage needs to be finalized for the 2023 season.
- Additional winter fat biking trail at the OC (as originally conceived by Tim, Josh, and Tom) are on hold -more detail in the winter biking section below.

### 13. 2022 Trail Construction and Maintenance

- Ed took a minute to recognize the quality and accessibility of the newly opened trail in the Stoney Brook area. While it does take a little work to gain the altitude, a reasonable level of fitness is all that is needed.
- Josh and Spence reviewed the progress and plans at Stoney Brook, relaying that the crew had worked well together but that with two machines, the ground crew had some trouble keeping up.
- The new volunteer-refurbished China Cat trail is open.
- No new decisions or actions taken.

### 14. Account Review

- Ed relayed that he and Dave Cota had not had a chance to catch up on account balances but took the action of reviewing in the coming weeks.

### 15. Fundraising

- Deb relayed that the mechanics around the USDA grant were being executed with the first reimbursement due shortly.
- Josh and Deb relayed that the TIF, NFC, and other grant cycles were approaching.
- No decisions or actions were taken but it was recognized that as a group we needed to get on top of this if we were going to take advantage of any opportunities.

### 16. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates

- Dave C reported that while there were hopeful signs, there had been no concrete progress on a resolution to access of trails on Penobscot Nation lands.

- Dave H to follow up on planned NEMBA donation to the PN to be coordinated with the Town (Deb).

#### 17. CRNEMBA Updates

- Warren updated the group on recently vacated CRNEMBA Board of Directors seats and plans to fill such seats over the coming weeks and months.
- Ed relayed that there were a variety of reasons folks were stepping down but that each planned to stay involved with CRNEMBA and engaged with the community.

#### 18. Sugarloaf Updates

- Adam relayed exciting plans in the works for lift-served trail at the resort base area, pending Sugarloaf and Boyne management budget approval. Adam indicated that the initial trails would be a mix of beginner and intermediate terrain. Expert terrain would later be added, as well as connectivity options to the CVTrails network.

#### 19. Maine Huts & Trails Updates

- Seth Page was introduced to the group (or at least to those of us who did not already know him).
- Wolfe relayed the exciting news that MH&T had been successful in restructuring its debt which would free up resources to “invest in ourselves”.
- Winter plans for MH&T will be similar to last year.

#### 20. Winter Riding

- Tom Butler relayed that Sugarloaf was committed to focusing on Nordic trail grooming at the OC this year and that anything that could potentially affect grooming at this point needs to be paused. Therefore, Sugarloaf will not be offering fat bike rentals this winter and unfortunately cannot commit resources to grooming new winter fat bike trails
- Tom also indicated that only Nordic trails that served as connectors (e.g., Snowbrook Trail) would remain open for winter fat biking this season and that there would be no charge for the use of these limited trails.
- There was discussion and general agreement that the Nordic and fat biking trail systems should be as separate as possible for the best experience for each user group.
- Tim Flight recapped plans for the coming winter. There is some potential for additional trail on the north side of Route 27. Some difficult to groom trails (e.g., F.O.R.D.) may be dropped from the grooming list this season to prioritize the potential additional groomed mileage.

#### 21. Electric Mountain Bikes (E-MTBs)

There was excellent and wide-ranging discussion on electric mountain bikes and the trial access period: E-MTB prevalence, challenges, successes, and future plans for their access to CVTrails.

- The trial period for E-MTB use, authorized by the Town Select Board has now ended so strictly speaking, they are no longer allowed on CVTrails.
- There was largely positive feedback on the experience but some challenges were noted around congestion and the speed at which some E-MTB users were riding when

approaching and passing other users. Dave C pointed out the importance of all bikers to announce themselves when coming up on other users.

- Both Sugarloaf and MH&T relayed their support for E-MTB access. There was wide agreement that increased use of E-MTBs was inevitable based on experience and data from other networks in the U.S. and Europe.
- John Freeman shocked the community 😊 with his announcement that he had purchased an E-MTB!
- The action was taken for the CVTC (starting with the E-MTB subcommittee) to recommend next steps to the Select Board.

## 22. Event Review

- ECS/EWS

Adam and Brenna relayed that the ECS and EWS events went off well and that both were well received by racers. Brenna indicated that Sugarloaf had hoped for more spectators at the EWS event and that the back-to-back races at Burke and Sugarloaf likely contributed to the lower-than-expected turnout.

- NEMBAFest

Dave H relayed some basic statistics from the event (1,500+ participants, etc.) By and large the group felt the event was a success while acknowledging some issues, largely related to the physical separation of the camping and concerts from the riding and vendor venues, and the inadequate space at the OC. Brenna relayed that there were some challenges in the planning and execution of the event with NEMBA.

- CRNEMBA Adventure Ride

Dave and Ed relayed that the event was a success with much higher group ride attendance than last year.