

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: March 24, 2023

To: Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC)

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Agenda for March 31, 2023 Meeting

The next CVTC meeting is set for Friday March 31st 2023 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Carrabassett Valley Town Office. The proposed agenda is provided below; we can add as needed.

1. Decisions and Actions from our January 20, 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 Class 1 eMTB policy recommendations.

2. Branded CVTrails sign for the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center (Ed)

- Sugarloaf (Tom) provided a plan mock up, onto which I clumsily pasted the CVTrails logo, for discussion. I'd really like to see this in place for the start of the 2023 riding season. Next steps -final design, cost estimates, etc.



3. Signage Status?

I must confess that I have lost track of where we are -can we recap?

4. eMTBs (Ed/Lloyd)

Lloyd has graciously agreed to help get permission for permanent access for Class 1 eMTBs on town property on the SOC side of Rt. 27 onto the Select Board agenda soon.

5. Trail Maintenance (Ed/Josh/Open Discussion)

This topic was tabled at our last meeting, pending a bit more detail in the plan. Josh and I have pulled together a draft plan for review. In sum, the level of maintenance Josh believes is necessary will require almost \$25k of funding. Note that other resources (financial and volunteer) are expended by the CVTC partners on maintenance of trails in general but these are those managed within the CVTC budgeting process. Should we try to capture more?

I believe the town has committed \$10k which leaves \$5k each for the remaining partners if they can contribute equally.

We are also in the process of updating the trail opening and closing guidelines.

6. NEMBAFest (Dave H/Sugarloaf)

- It seems 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.

7. Winter Riding (Tim Flight/Mark Schwarz/Tim Gerencer)

- General recap as the end of the season approaches
 - 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 the people who put their time into grooming.

8. Pump Track (Ed/Open Discussion)

- My aspiration would be to re-establish a group to work on this. A few people have expressed interest.
- 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.

9. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates (Lloyd/Dave C)

- Updates as appropriate.

10. CRNEMBA Updates (Warren/Dave H)

- Updates as appropriate.

11. Sugarloaf Updates (Adam/Brenna/Tom)

- Updates as appropriate.

12. Maine Huts and Trails Updates (Seth/Erica)

- Updates as appropriate.

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: 24Jan2023

To: CVTC Committee

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Decisions and Actions from Jan 20, 2023 Meeting

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

13. Review of Past Actions and Decisions

- Past actions and decision were reviewed, with no updates.

14. Emerging Work Plans for 2023 (Josh)

- Josh relayed that new construction work would once again focus on the Stoney Brook area with a season start dependent on spring conditions
- Bids have been received for the site work needed for a parking area for the Stoney Brook area and are under review. There was general (re) consensus that we have a responsibility to provide effective parking for these new trails.
- Josh will ask homeowners who neighbor the current trailhead on Route 27 if they would like to see no parking signs in the area until the parking lot is complete. Josh indicated that those folks would need to be contacted anyway as part of the permitting process.
- Josh also relayed that the crew would look for an opportunity for some additional beginner trail closer to the OC -perhaps in the Grassy Loops area.
- Ed suggested that discussion around maintenance budget be tabled until next meeting when a more complete review of the season's plans, with some level of cost itemization could be prepared. Tom Butler and Erika Johnson both relayed the need for more detail in order for their organizations to consider an increase in contribution. A budgetary increase in commitment is currently under consideration by the town. In my view, any final decision by the town for actual use of those funds is contingent on consensus regarding each partner's contribution (i.e., the Town's commitment should not be taken for granted).

15. Branded CVTrails sign for the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center

- Tom and Ed will work on implementing a branded CVTrails sign for the main Sugarloaf Outdoor Center sign on Route 27. Tom commented that Sugarloaf had engaged with Puelle Design for that signage.

16. NEMBAFest

- Dave relayed that NEMBA was working to bring NEMBAFest back to Carrabassett Valley again this year and that NEMBA and Sugarloaf were working out some contractual details.

17. Winter Riding

- It was pointed out that there was a “missing connection” on the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center winter riding map between the OC and Route 27. Comments relayed that riders were getting confused as to how they should navigate to Route 27. Tom Butler relayed that it was intended that riders use the short section of the race trail to the Route 27 connector and that the map would be updated, and signage reviewed.

18. Sugarloaf Fat Tire Race

- Warren reported that while participation in the race (and winter fat tire races in general) was down, the race details were generally all set for the 12th pending any negative weather events.

19. Pump Track

- The appeal of a good pump track, near the center of the trail system and parking was reaffirmed by the group. It was decided that a Pump track Subcommittee should be reformed to assess desirable characteristics (size, difficulty level, etc.) and possible locations for a new, likely expanded pump track.
- When asked, Tom Butler commented that the current track would impede grooming if they were to host a homologated Nordic race, though he indicated receptiveness to other solutions to that challenge if the current location was determined to be the best in the long term.
- Ed took the action to poll the interested community for folks willing to serve on a Pump Track Subcommittee.

20. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates

- Dave C reported that a meeting with the Penobscot Nation was being organized with representation from the Town, Snowmobile Club, ATV Club, and bike community with the hopes of re-establishing permission for access to trails on Penobscot Nation lands.

21. CRNEMBA Updates

- Warren updated the group on the new, energetic, and talented folks who have joined the CRNEMBA Board of Directors.

22. Sugarloaf Updates

- In addition to input into the winter riding and signage discussion, Tom relayed that bike park plans were under review by Boyne leadership and that plans were actively being developed for work to begin this summer.

23. Maine Huts & Trails Updates

- Erika Johnson was (re) introduced to the group and reported that the Stratton Brook, Poplar Stream, and Flagstaff huts were open for the winter with full service Thursday through Sunday and self-serve the balance of the week. Lunch could be purchased on full-serve days. Erika also reported that MH&T huts are well booked!

24. Electric Mountain Bikes (eMTBs)

- The eMTB Subcommittee presented its recommendations for future access (see memo attached).
- Concerns were raised about messaging, particularly as it related to Penobscot lands. It was agreed that, pending Select Board agreement that eMTBs would be allowed on Town property on the Outdoor Center side of Route 27, messaging should include a reiteration that no biking is allowed on Penobscot lands.

Should permission for access to trails on Penobscot lands be re-established, CVTC should consider whether such permission explicitly includes eMTBs or not. CVTC should err on the side of caution with regard to messaging -i.e. assume that eMTBs are not be allowed until confirmed .