

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: May 11, 2023

To: Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC)

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Agenda for June 2, 2023 Meeting

The next CVTC meeting is set for Friday June 2nd 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 March 31, 2023 Meeting (Ed)

I have attached our “Decisions and Actions” document from the last meeting for reference. Several initiatives are still “in work”, which we’ll discuss later in the agenda but the CV Select Board has granted permission for Class 1 eMTBs access to trails on Town property on the north side of Rt. 27.

2. Special Guest

Amanda Royce from the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) will be joining us on June 2. Amanda is based in Porter Maine and serves as the NEMBA Events Director. She’ll give us a rundown on what’s new at NEMBA, plans for NEMBAFest (which be returning to CV this summer on August 4th 5th, and 6th), and share other mountain bike insights.

3. Stoney Brook Project

- Trail construction
- Trail opening
- Parking lot

4. Trail Signage (Josh & Tim/Tom & Ed)

- Some signs for the Narrow-Gauge side of Rt. 27 are in, the balance expected soon. We’ll need some additional posts. Let’s review plans and timeline for getting them into place.
- Roadside sign on Rt. 27 at Sugarloaf Outdoor Center

5. Pump Track (Adam/Open Discussion)

- Some initial investigation for a site has been completed, largely by Adam and Deb. This subcommittee will share some initial thoughts.

6. Funding Status (Deb/Josh)

- USDA Grant implementation -all going according to plan?
- TIF opportunity for help with the parking lot?
- Other?

7. Partner Updates

- a. Town of Carrabassett Valley Updates (Lloyd/Dave C)
- b. CRNEMBA Updates (Warren/Dave H)
- c. Sugarloaf Updates (Adam/Brenna/Tom)
- d. Maine Huts and Trails Updates (Seth/Erica)

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



Date: 2-Apr-2023

To: CVTC Committee

From: Ed Gervais

Subject: Decisions and Actions from March 31, 2023 Meeting

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

8. Review of Past Actions and Decisions

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

9. Branded CVTrails sign for the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center

- Tom and Ed will work continue to work on implementing a branded CVTrails sign for the main Sugarloaf Outdoor Center sign on Route 27. While some details need to be worked out, Sugarloaf offered to include production of the sign with other updated signs at Signworks so the thickness, material, etc. will be consistent amongst the sign panels.

10. Trail Signage on the Campbell Field Side of Rt. 27

- Josh reported that signs are on order and expected in May for installation. We have some post inventory but may need to buy some more. Josh and Tim envision a combination of professional and volunteer resource will be used to install the new signs. Josh will coordinate with Seth (MH&T) on placement, etc. to provide as integrated an experience as possible where CVTrails and MH&T networks overlap.

11. eMTBs

- Deb relayed that the Rec. Committee was in agreement with the CVTC recommendation that Class 1 eMTBs be granted permanent permission to access trails on Town land on the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center side of Rt. 27. Lloyd reported that he and Dave C were working on getting such permission on the Select Board agenda.

12. Trail Maintenance

- Josh and Ed presented the draft plan and budget intended to support discussion around trail maintenance for 2023. It was noted that all CVTC partners expended resources outside this budget on maintenance of the trail network and there was some discussion around whether to try to capture those expenditures but no conclusion. It was noted that the Town has generously committed \$10k of the \$25k total budget. CRNEMBA and Sugarloaf indicated a willingness to increase their contributions to \$5k each. MH&T is faced with some significant trail upgrade/repair expenses this season and will have to assess their capacity to contribute once they have a more complete picture of those expenses. It was recognized that each organization will have limitations with regard to the magnitude and timing of what they can contribute to the CVTrails effort and that such limitations do not lessen their demonstrated commitment to the CVTC process.

13. Pump Track

- A Pump track Subcommittee was re-formed with Adam and Deb leading. Ed agreed to help however possible and to reach out to Spencer for potential participation, as he had expressed interest in the past.

14. Sugarloaf Updates

- Tom Butler reported that Sugarloaf was investigating a new homologated race loop and some modifications to other trail corridors in order to increase the venue's capacity and appeal in support of attracting more significant Nordic race events. Tom stressed that this was in an evaluation phase only at this point. Impacts on biking trails, should the project move forward, would largely be related to corridor width, with only limited impact on the tread.

15. Maine Huts & Trails Updates

- Seth reported that MH&T had a good winter and that Flagstaff Hut would be available for rent over the summer season. Plans are afoot for some level of activity at Stratton Brook Hut as well, but nothing definitive at this point. Seth also relayed plans for significant repairs/upgrades to the Crommett's Overlook/Narrow Gauge Bypass trail.

16. Other Updates

CRNEMBA and the Town had no significant updates to report.

17. Trail Open/Closure (Trail Status Guidelines)

The updated Trails Status Guidelines and Responsibilities document was reviewed with the following decisions:

- A "Closed" trail designation applies to all users, not just bikers.
- Josh and Tim will be designated as the Non-Winter and Winter Trail Manager respectively. Monitors will not be designated by name in the document.
- Monitors will report status change recommendations to both Josh and Tim.
- While decisions about trail status rely on a wide network of riders, Josh and Tim will coordinate to identify a few trusted monitors whose reports Tim can use as a basis for status change without necessarily waiting for feedback from Josh.
- It was acknowledged that a frequently update trail status on the Trail Conditions page was valued by the riding community.
- It was confirmed that the CVTC Trails Conditions page would refer visitors to MH&T and Sugarloaf pages for status of trails under their management.

18. Next Meeting

Ed suggested the latter half of May for the next meeting and will follow up with CVTC partners to finalize a date.