

Knob Committee 8-27-25 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tim, Linda, David, Dave, Kiko, Tracy, Barry, Diane, Aaron and Eric from Arrowwood

1. No public comment
2. Minutes approved
3. Discussion with Arrowwood:
 - A) Overview on Work and Maps
 - Aaron and Eric - Working on prelim steps of field assessment, natural resources and trail assessment.
 - Natural Resource Inventory: 95% done with field work, different ecosystem types and sensitive areas on property
 - Review of map provided:
 - Southeast Corner- Northern Hardwood
 - Wetlands throughout property, vernal pool confirmed, woodland seeps, spring box which appears to be abandoned.
 - Deer wintering habitat identified
 - Bobolink, grassland bird species found in field
 - Old quarry at top of cliff, oaks with bear claw marks where they climbed trees for eating acorns.
 - Also detailed mapping of streams is included in map.
 - B) Trail maps and infrastructure piece:
 - Existing trails are mapped and identifying issues / trouble spots.
 - Land has been surveyed.
 - Slope analysis which helps with erosion. One missed trail along stream across from Mt. Pleasant St.
 - Could establish which are the 'official' trails on the existing trails map.
 - Proposed Trail map: Modifications to help with slope issues. Big new field loop is proposed. Management and maintenance of trail is a consideration. Trails are set up to accommodate bikes but it's a value judgement for committee to make.
 - Potential parking lot on Mount Pleasant St., trails look and eliminate steep slope straight up. Possible big loop across entire property and an example with a moderate slope.
 - Would open up another part of the property that isn't used.
 - Seasonality of the trail use is a consideration, could groom cross country trails. Consider move trail away from deer wintering habitat. Could designate different seasonal trails and also have a smaller interior loop.

C) Future Public Input:

- As a committee we should consider: What do we want to learn?
- We could put something at the bench for input.
- Arrowwood could place flags or lead a guided walk.
- Arrowwood would make some recommendations. Should maintain open field adds value to property. Enough interesting pieces of the property to have an interpretive trail information.
- Arrowwood has sketched out a draft management plan. How do we approve new trails, trail maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, background description, history, documentation of accesses point, uses - natural resource, existing and future conditions.
- Special uses should be considered (educational use and green burial are possible thoughts)
- Rules and restrictions will need to be outlined, Arrowwood will provide a follow up list.
- Action item for Arrowwood to add to map - marking foundation stone at top near the bench.

4. Not covered during meeting:

- Review of Cooperative Agreement between Town of St Johnsbury and Caledonia Trail Collaborative (pdf attached).
- Follow up on Rock Climbing (some Conservative Easement excerpts attached).

5. 6:30: Adjourn