

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016

Present: Anne Gwynne, Kathy Healy, Leslie Talmadge, Ron Rayner, Audra Klumb, Robert Erlenwein, Peter Ellinwood, Tim Pifer, Rob Knight, Rob Talmadge, Fran Philippe, Hillary Thomson, Ron Klemarczyk, Gail Page

I. March 23, 2016 minutes approved

II. Trail Planning:

a. Broken Ground – Ron has flagged the walking trails in the area of the beaver pond as well as the eastern boundary of the property. He reports that a trail around the beaver pond next to N. Curtisville Rd is not possible due to too great a water crossing between the pond and a wetland behind it. The trail will go around both the pond and the wetland instead. Could there be a viewing platform by the pond? Perhaps. The Conservation Commission will do a site walk in concert with the trails committee, after which work will begin on the trails.

The Northeast Mountain Bike Association will lay out and build a bike trail in the southeastern corner of the property. Ron K. will accompany them for their site walk. Rob suggests appointment of a project manager and Fran P. volunteered. More parking spaces are needed on N. Curtisville but should be placed away from the pond.

Unitil will set up a parking lot at the other end of the property on Portsmouth St.

b. Swope to Winant – Three landowners have signed easements and St Paul's School agreement is ready for signing. The trail is mostly flagged and laid out. Rob and Ron will do a final site walk on the portion west of Long Pond Rd. Committee discussed the need for signage to designate what uses are allowed on this and other trails, even though this information is on each map. Many users don't consult the website maps. Also needed is permission from St. Paul's School to drive across fields to bring bridge-building materials to bridge sites.

III. Updating Trail Guide:

Some maps are missing from the current guide. Some maps have errors or missing trails. Guest Bob Erlenwein notes he has often helped lost hikers. Fran suggested asking input from the public on the trails and maps. Such input is planned for the website, but a newspaper article seeking input would also be valuable. Getting the new guide ready for publication at the time of the Broken Ground "Grand Opening" would be a good target date but we need to coordinate with Beth Fenstermacher. Committee discussed getting the trail stewards involved but some are hard to contact. Rob Knight suggested a subcommittee to coordinate updates. ***Committee will take up the setting of a target date for the trail guide update at the next meeting.***

Also, next month's agenda should include discussion of a guide for the trail stewards.

IV. Community Trail Walk:

Saturday June 4th is National Trails Day and a good day for us to offer a guided group walk on a city trail for the public. Jim Hill Riverwalk was suggested as a scenic trail with ample parking. We need a volunteer to organize the walk and to decide which trail to use. (No one spoke up, maybe next meeting?) Five Rivers is doing a walk in the fall which our committee will join if they agree. Kathy H. will contact them.

V. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

Volunteers are to report their time spent and activity on their designated trails but there is currently a lack of consistency in what is reported. The best way to report is to email this information to David Ross or Beth Fenstermacher.

VI. Other Business:

Ron K reports he plans a controlled burn on the Riley River Walk field and Hoyt Road area. He has the assistance of the high school fire fighters.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: May 11, 2016 5:30