

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
May 11, 2016

Present: Beth Fenstermacher, Audra Klumb, Fran Philippe, Robert Erlenwein, Tim Pifer, Hilary Thomson, Mike Lehman, Rob Talmadge, Ron Rayner, Greg Mannesto, Rob Knight, Kathy Healy, Ron Klemarczyk, Gail Page

1. Minutes for the April Meeting were accepted with 2 changes under “other business”: Riley River Walk Field is changed to *Riley Lot* and the assistance for a controlled burn on that property will *be from the Concord Fire Dept and its Concord High School fire trainees.*

2. Beth reported on the Conservation Commission’s review of our goals and mission statement. To the mission statement they added “consistent with the open space plan” so that it reads as follows: To develop, maintain and promote mixed-use trails for the City of Concord consistent with the open space plan. They also added a tenth goal to develop a Trail Steward guide. The object of this is to promote consistency among the stewards in their volunteer actions.

3. Trail Planning

a. Broken Ground

Representatives of the Conservation Commission did their walk at BG on May 10th. Therefore, trail building can begin any time. The trails near the beaver pond are still tentative with questions of whether to move the easterly trail further from the pond and perhaps not building a trail on the west side. However it would be interesting to have trail access to a cellar hole on the west side...

Much of BG consists of hemlock groves where deer are known to shelter. Can we avoid enough of those areas and still get the trail system we want? Decision to request the Conservation Commission to provide consultation from a wildlife biologist on this issue.

Trail bikers will develop their own trail on the SE corner of the property but will have access to the rest of the trails. We will emphasize to them that we do not want them creating other unofficial trails.

ATVs are using the trails that currently exist at BG. This is NOT allowed in City forests. If members see them on the trails, try and get their license numbers.

The woods roads need to be upgraded for emergency vehicle access. Some culverts will be necessary.

b. Swope to Winant

The Conservation Commission will discuss final routing of this trail system this evening. Rob Talmadge noted that there is need for more parking space at Swope to accommodate more hikers when this new trail opens. Two options are on the table. One would be to expand the current lot at Swope, another is to create a second lot nearby. The trails website will suggest car-pooling for groups and arriving by bicycle. We need to provide a bike rack.

c. Jim Hill River Walk

A section of this trail needs to be moved further from the riverbank as the river has eroded the trail. The committee set May 15th as a work day for this to be done.

d. Regular work dates

The committee established every third Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm for trails work. This month’s work will be to cut and clear the trail at Broken Ground starting from the Portsmouth St. end.

4. Updating the trail guides

Rob K. emailed trail stewards and requested they submit suggestions for changes and improvements in the current trail guide. Some have responded, others have yet to respond. Committee members recommend adding a notation on each trail map telling what uses are and aren't allowed. Beth and Fran will create a sample. Any of us, whether stewards or not, should send suggestions to Beth for improving the guide.

5. Community Trail Walk

We decided not to try and set up a trail walk or walks for June 4th during National Trails Week. Other organizations, e.g. The COOP and Five Rivers Conservation Trust have trail walks already planned. However, we might consider offering a guided walk on a monthly basis.

6. Merrimack River Trail Clean-up

This should be organized by the Merrimack River Greenway committee, and the Trails committee could provide volunteers as available.

7. Trail Maintenance Workshop

The Stewardship Network is offering a "Basic Trail Maintenance for Volunteers" workshop June 11 for \$25. Beth suggested that we could organize our own workshop.

8. Trail Maintenance and Reporting

Stewards are reminded to submit their hours and a description of their work to David Ross or Beth on a regular basis.

9. Other Business

- a. The existence of our new official sub- committee could use some publicity. Beth will contact the Monitor and suggest an article.
- b. A nine year old child is looking for a service project. Do we have anything he could do?

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary

Next meeting: June 8, 2016 at 5:30 PM