

Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2017

Present: Robert Erlenwein, Beth Fenstermacher, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Fran Philippe, Tim Pifer, David Ross, Rob Talmadge, Hilary Thomson
Visitors: Greg Silva, Pat O'Brien, Leslie Talmadge

Before the agenda, Rob shared that the AMC reported building 4.6 miles of new trails last year - our trails committee built 6.8 miles. And that he'd heard from the Adams that "The trail network is easily one of the top three reasons why [they] love and stay in Concord".

1. March 8, 2017 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Visitors Greg Silva and Pat O'Brien are mountain bikers who ride at Oak Hill. Greg Silva introduced the fact that the downward slope of the Murray Bluff trail at Oak Hill was very difficult for mountain bikers (and hikers as well.) He suggested rerouting it and some of the Luti Loop. Ron K agreed that the ledges on those trails were not a good routing and will work with Greg and Pat O'Brien on a new layout. Greg offered their help with the work. They also inquired about installing obstacles which Beth was to bring up to the Conservation Commission.

The trail that goes into Loudon up near the Oak Hill fire tower is not officially sanctioned and will be removed from the trail map.

3. Community Trail Walks:

- a. March 25th, Weir Rd/Boscawen Town Forest, 3 total with no one from the public, probably due to the extremely poor weather.
- b. Hikes planned for April 15th (Hilary Thomson), May 27th (Fran Philippe) and June 24th (David Ross.)

Hike attendance has not been what was expected, thus not meeting the objective of introducing the public to our trails. After discussing the value of continuing the hikes, it was decided to continue them for now and reevaluate after seeing what the attendance is in the warmer weather.

Beth reported that the Capitol Area Wellness program is promoting the trails as part of active living in Concord. It was requested that a day of hiking be added to summer camps through Parks and Recreation. Fran and Hilary offered to possibly lead. Trail Passports are in the planning stage, to perhaps be ready in May. Fifteen businesses have offered discounts if 20 of our trails are hiked.

4. Signage:

a. Of the three choices that Tim presented, the aluminum or the thin poly seemed to be the best choices. The thin poly would need a plywood backer. Beth will compare the costs. Signs cannot be ordered until the next budget year starting July. It was agreed that signs along the trails do not need trail names, only arrows. Ron K prefers that signs be on posts rather than trees.

b. Rob Talmadge offered to walk the Broken Ground trails with Fran one more time for the final list of signs.

5. T-shirts:

The original Concord Trail Meister design, with the tools standing up, was chosen. They will be \$12 for short sleeves and \$15 for long. Beth will setup and order form.

6. Trail stewards:

Fran's Trail Monitoring Report for Trail Stewards was approved after some additions to the report. It will be emailed to the stewards in April and October. David Ross's Steward Guide will be sent in April as well.

7. Trail Maintenance:

Ron K reported on clean-up of blowdowns at Batchelder Mill and Spear's Park; wet spots on the Winant-Swope Connector and work that was completed at Broken Ground with volunteers from SPS.

8. Scheduled work days:

Side-cuts will be repaired at Swope Park at 5:pm on Monday, May 1st. Ron K estimates 16 hours of work needed.

9. Updating maps and kiosk information:

Beth reported that all maps and texts have been updated on the website. Trail stewards will be asked to look them over for approval. The

next meeting will be Wed., May 10th at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Philippe Secretary
pro tem