

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-committee Meeting Minutes
Of May 10, 2017

Present: Greg Mannesto, Audra Klumb, Mike Schowalter, Beth Fenstermacher, Mike Lehman, Tim Pifer, Rob Knight, Fran Philippe, Rob Talmadge, Gail Page

1. Minutes of the April 12th meeting were approved as written.
2. Trail walks: The 4/15/17 walk from Winant to Swope was well attended by the public. There were nineteen participants. Perfect weather was a likely encouragement for participating.

Fran will lead a walk at Sewalls Falls on 5/27/17.

David Ross will lead the next hike on 6/24/17, location to be determined.

Mike Showalter will lead a hike on either 7/22 or 7/29.

The Capitol Area Wellness Coalition wants to collaborate on the hikes. They are reaching out to other members of the community, including St Paul's School, a yoga instructor, biking community, and the city Parks and Recreation dept. "Nature Babes" group for moms.

The Center for Health Promotion is putting together a "Trail Passport" program to encourage people to get out and exercise. After completing 20 local trails, a person receives discounts at 10 Concord businesses. Flyers will be available at the participating businesses.

Fran has volunteered with the Parks and Recreation Department to lead first and second graders on a hike on 6/28/17 and Fran and Hillary will lead third and fifth graders on a hike on 7/12/17.

3. Trail Work: On May 1st eight Trails volunteers worked at Swope Park to improve the side cuts on the trail to the right. Another work day is needed for the trail to the left. That is set for May 22nd.

Reblazing is needed on the West End Farm Trail, Spear Park, Riley and Oak Hill. Chris Northrup will reblaze Rolf Park. Gail will do Riley. (other volunteers???) We should use the same kind of paint for all the trails.

Ron Klemarczk and the St. Paul's Lacrosse team cleaned up the site at Broken Ground where some teenagers had erected a shelter. They also removed an old culvert.

The mountain bikers will flag their trail at Broken Ground this fall and construct their trail next summer. They have identified wet areas where bridges will be needed.

A motorized bicycle was seen at Contoocook River Park. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the city's trails. Is a bicycle with motor-assist an exception? To be determined.

4. Signage: Signs will be green with white lettering. Rob Talmadge and Fran will walk the Broken Ground to finalize locations and wording for the signs. Rob Knight will do the Connector trails. They will report the number of signs needed so that Beth can work with Tim to determine the cost.

There is some money raised by an Eagle Scout that could be used for signs. Otherwise the signs will have to wait for the next fiscal year, July 1. June 1st is the target date for all sign planning.

Liz Hengen is preparing interpretive signs with old photos of the historical Russell Pond recreation area north of Swope Park.

5. T-shirts: 12 shirts are on order.

6. Trail Stewards and trail reviews for spring: Fran sent an email to stewards requesting a response by May 30th.

Fran will steward the East Concord Heritage Trail.

Rob has asked the stewards for trails that are listed as handicap accessible to check whether they are in fact handicap accessible.

Someone has put up many signs on the Winant to Swope connector trail warning hikers not to enter the hayfield. St. Paul's School was unaware of the signs and they will remove them.

The Ross View Farm manager has been objecting to hikers and bikers using the West End Farm Trail near the farm. In fact, the state has an easement for a hiking trail, but the property has the write to prohibit bicycling without permission. There may be a need for more signage to direct trail users, but we will await the outcome of discussions by the State with the manager.

7. New trail criteria: The Conservation Commission is working on a new open space plan that may include trails. This is in conjunction with updating the city's Master Plan for the years 2020-2030. There will be a public meeting in June before the criteria are finalized.

Next meeting is on June 14 at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary