

DRAFT
Concord Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Trails Subcommittee Meeting
August 9, 2017

Present: Audra Klumb, Greg Mannesto, Tim Pifer, Rob Talmadge, Rik Van Riel, Gail Page, Chris Northrop, Dave Swett, Beth Fenstermacher, Kathrine Healy, Leslie Talmadge

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved after 2 corrections, i.e. there were 3 members of the public at the Jim Hill River Walk on June 24th, not 13, and Fran's hike with 1st and 2nd graders was on the Broken Ground pond loop, not Jim Hill River Walk.

2. Community Trail Walks: a. Mike Showalter reported that there were 17 hikers on his Dimond Hill walk. They hiked the red trail south of Hopkinton Rd and included a visit to the farm ice pond for half the group. Four cub scouts joined the hike.

b. August 26th Fran will lead a group on the Bachelder Mill trails starting from off Shamut St.

c. Sept. 19 is Alison Murphy's "yoga hike" on the Swope trails. Parks and Recreation is the sponsor and registration is required. There is a 15 person limit.

d. The Mayor's walk is actually 2 walks, one on Main St. on 9/27 at noon, and another the next Saturday the 30th at the Sewell's Falls trails starting at 9:00 AM. Delta Dental and In-Town Concord are sponsoring this and providing prizes from local businesses and a scavenger hunt. There will also be snacks for the participants. A litter clean-up is planned for 1 week prior to this walk.

e. November 5th there is a hike from Swope to Winant in the early afternoon sponsored by Five Rivers Conservation. Shuttle cars will allow some to do a one-way hike, others have the option to hike back to Swope or continue by hiking the Winant trails.

f. Gail will lead a mid-October hike to a trail with a view of the foliage. Probably Swope or Oak Hill.

Should we plan some winter hikes? This will be determined at a later meeting.

Hike leaders and sweeps are always needed so these hiking opportunities for the public can continue.

3. Update on signs: The committee again discussed color for the signs and decided to go with brown with white lettering rather than the green we first proposed. Tim will order them from the state prison workshop, concentrating first on Broken Ground and the Swope Connector, the newest trails. Next would be the west end farm trail up to but not including Carter Hill Orchard.

Trail markers on the Rossvie property need to be changed from paint to metal markers to comply with the land-owners request. Signs are also needed to tell bikers they need the landowner's permission to bike in this area. Additional educational signs would be desirable to describe features such as Ross Pond and glacial erratics.

4. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

a. Chris Northrop has finished blazing the Contoocook River Park trails. He notes that much trash accumulates at the end of Electric Ave. He'll keep cleaning it up.

b. Rik Van Riel plans to reblaze Oak Hill trails but will hold off until Murray Loop has been rerouted by Ron Klemarczk.

c. Audra Klumb has maintained Spears Park trails. A helpful park neighbor mows where needed.

d. A Merrill Park culvert has been replaced with a bridge. Forest Society volunteers are set to do the necessary rerouting of the upper trail.

- e. Rob Talmadge has worked on the Swope to Winant and the Swope trails.
- f. The Walker State Forest , which contains a communication tower, has some unofficial trails created by bikers. The State does not want people cutting trails.
- g. The Riley Trails have some large trees down on the trails. Beth will let Ron K. know about this.
- h. Rik raised the matter of an unofficial trail to the summit of Oak Hill. Beth stated that the landowner objects to its existence and use. Rik will photograph the trail and a sign someone erected and send it to Beth.
- i. At the Jim Hill River Walk, it is apparent that the neighbor who used to mow the path across the field to the woods has stopped this volunteer work. Consequently, the trail from the kiosk to the woods is not visible. Beth will find out if the city will take this on.

Some evening work sessions will be scheduled for some trailwork.

REMINDER TO ALL: send Beth your trail work hours.

5. Kiosk updates: The city's intern will handle the task of placing the newly issued maps at all the kiosks. We plan to also place the QR codes for downloading the map onto a cell phone at the kiosks.

A kiosk for Broken Ground can now be erected at the Portsmouth St. entrance. The electric utility work is complete.

6. Other Business: Tim Pifer will talk to Rob Knight about our sub-committee completing the criteria for new trails. It has been started but needs more work.

Our sub-committee has reached its one year anniversary. Is there a protocol for renewing the membership? Should we have new officer elections? Establish term limits? Rotating terms? Beth will bring these questions to the Conservation Commission.

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, Recording Secretary