

Concord Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Trails Subcommittee
for December 13, 2017

Present: Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Rob Talmadge, David Ross, Fran Philippe, Beth Fenstermacher, Gail Page, Greg Mannesto, Mike Schowalter, Anne Gwynn
Visitors: Andy Gould, Hilary Miskoe, David Swett, Matt Cahillane, Leslie Talmadge

1. Minutes of November 8 meeting were approved as presented, with minor edits.
2. Community Trail Walks:
 - Fran's hike on 11/18/17 on Oak Hill from Oak Hill Rd had 13 participants including our congressional representative, Annie Kuster.
 - Rob Knight's hike on the West End Farm Trail from Dimond Hill Farm on 12/9/17 had 31 participants including 6 trails committee members.
 - The January hike will be held at Riley Lot trails and led by Gail Page. The date is 1/20/18.
 - The library is sponsoring a hike on February 24th at 10 am in conjunction with its Concord Reads program. Fran will assist as a hike leader. As part of this program, the library will award a free book to persons who complete 10 hikes between February and April 2018. Beth F. will follow up with the Library to work out the details.
 - AARP and the Center for Health Promotion are sponsoring 4 hikes in May and June. Beth Fenstermacher will give presentations before the hikes, and asked members to volunteer to lead hikes. For our assistance with this, it is possible that AARP will contribute funds that could be used toward our trail signs.
3. The trail signs from the State Prison workshop will be ready by 12/15/17, per Tim Pifer. Beth F. will have them in her office.
4. Trail Maintenance:
 - David Swett volunteered to chop up a tree that Ann Gwynn reported down on the Tower Trail at Oak Hill.
 - The Parks Department is not going to take action on the homeless encampment at the end of the Healy Trail. We will postpone any action on this until spring.
 - Beth provided an update from Ron Klemarczyk:
 - Repaired the bridge at the Riley Lot with the help of Rob Knight and David Ross and then removed deadfalls from the Riley trail south of Hoit Road.
 - Supervised the clean-up of the downed trees on the Nowell Trail/woods road at Broken Ground and then lopped logging slash and spring poles from along the trail.
 - Provided Fran with sign posts.
 - Postponed the footbridge repair on the Sewalls Falls trail until next Spring. He is aware of the blowdowns still on the trail and was going to clean them up as part of the bridge repair. He can get the ones on the north end, but the trees on the

south end are hung up and he feel that they are too dangerous to cut at this time.

- Broken Ground blowdowns have been removed by a logger.
- Behind the Winant property there are numerous unsanctioned trails, most created by mountain bikers. A landowner near the water tower has posted his land, cutting access to several established bootleg trails. Discussed how to make mountain bikers aware that creating bootleg trails constitutes trespass and creates ill will with landowners. Beth and Ron will work on signs indicating the bootleg trails are not city trails.

5. Discussion of criteria for new trails (or eliminating a trail):

Due to limited time we determined that we would separate discussion of criteria for trails from discussion of the procedure for approving new trails or closing trails. We will concentrate on criteria first. The suggestion of a sub-committee on this topic was rejected. Beth said that the criteria are meant as a tool to help the committee make decisions on trails.

Discussed criteria which would weigh in favor of a trail. See attached updated Trail Criteria. Decided to discuss negative criteria at the next meeting rather than holding a special working session meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary