

Concord Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Trails Subcommittee
January 10, 2018

Present: Beth Fenstermacher, Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Rob Talmadge, David Ross, Ron Klemarczyk, Rik Van Riel, Mike Schowalter, Audra Klumb, Hilary Thomson, Mike Lehman
Visitors: Kristine Tardiff, Leslie Talmadge, Hilary Miskoe

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Rob Knight

1. Minutes of December 13, 2017 meeting were approved as presented, with minor edits.

2. Community Trail Walks:

- The January hike will be held at Riley Lot trails and led by Gail Page on January 20, 2018. The parking lot may need to be plowed before this event.
- The library is sponsoring a hike on February 24, 2018 on the Jim Hill Riverwalk beginning at 10 am in conjunction with its Concord Reads program. Fran will assist as a hike leader. If a high number of individuals sign up, a call may go out to the committee for additional volunteers to assist with the hike.
- A hike to be held in March will be discussed at the February 14, 2018 Trails meeting.
- AARP and the Center for Health Promotion are sponsoring 4 hikes in May and June. Beth Fenstermacher will give presentations before the hikes, and again asked members to volunteer to lead hikes.

3. Signage:

- 52 trail signs from the State Prison workshop have been delivered and a couple have already been installed on posts. Ron K. would prefer signs be installed on posts rather than trees. Ron K. to make available 4"x4" sign posts when needed. The majority of signs will be installed after the snow melts. Tim Pifer will check with the sign shop to see if future signs can have more rounded corners as the arrow signs did.
- Larger signs for the Broken Ground trailheads are being considered, possibly made by Advantage Signs.
- Funds still exist for additional signs. The Oak Hill trail system was thought to have the greatest need for new signage.

4. Trail Maintenance:

- Ron K. gave an update on the property near the Winant trails where there are numerous unsanctioned trails, many created by mountain bikers. He and Jim Owers met with the land owner (abutter of the trail system near the water tower) to discuss the posting of his land, which he has already done.
- Timber sale at the end of Via Tranquilla is scheduled to take place in the next several weeks. This is also an area of a few unsanctioned/bootleg trails as it is the property

of the City and is protected by the water supply boundaries.

- Further discussion included how to make mountain bikers and others aware of the problems with creating unsanctioned trails. The need to change the culture is apparent. Suggestion was made to bring in representatives of the local mountain bike community to the meetings for further discussions and education.
- Storm damage uprooted many trees on the Upper and Lower trails at Carter Hill orchard. These are not heavily used trails as most hikers/skiers use the West End Farm Trail. These may have to wait until spring to handle the clean-up.

5. Trail Criteria:

- From 5:50 to 6:25 p.m., discussion continued on the criteria of establishing a new trail with the focus of this meeting on the criteria which weighed against or posed a challenge, for taking on a new project or trail(s).
- The procedure and process of using these criteria/guidelines to be the subject of the next meeting.

6. Other business:

- Beth related that the City was undertaking a rezoning review over the next 2 years with a focus on the downtown area during the first year and Loudon Road and outlying areas during the second year. This review is to begin during the first week of February 2018 and will not necessarily be based upon use but rather on site character.

7. Next meeting:

- Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. (in spite of St. Valentine's Day).
- Motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. was adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Pifer, Vice Chair