

Concord Conservation Commission
Meeting of the Trails Subcommittee
July 11, 2018

Present: Fran Philippe, Tim Pifer, Rik Van Riel, Rob Talmadge, Greg Mannesto, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Hilary Thomson, Beth Fenstermacher

Guests: Jim Owers and Jeff Lewis (Conservation Commission members); Stephanie Phillips (City's Public Information Officer), Bob Holdsworth (Leave No Trace Representative), and David Swett

1. Minutes from June's meeting were approved with corrections: at item 4, "Fran will *contact the* Concord Monitor about the problem...". Also, at item 4, remove "Rob T will speak to Tim Farmer at S&W..." At item 7, Ron K added that he *and the intern, Leandra Nault*, removed downed trees at 3 trail systems.
2. Stephanie Philips was introduced to the committee as the newly hired public information officer for Concord. Her job will include assisting this committee in its communication with the public.
3. Guest Bob Holdsworth, of Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics presented an informative and inspiring program about the "Leave No Trace" organization. It began in the US and now has chapters around the world, including NH. Bob is the NH representative to the National Organization. Its purpose is to assist local groups, park rangers, trail stewards and others in proven ways to influence the public to use the out-of-doors gently and wisely, reducing problems of litter, rogue trails, dog waste, disturbance of wildlife, and encouraging courtesy toward other trail users, among other goals. This organization is able to find resources and provide training for educating the public on their role in preventing damage to trails and successful sharing of trail systems. Their information is science based and the public is more accepting of efforts to change their behavior when they are given a solid reason for doing so. Leave No Trace welcomes the city's partnering with them; doing so is inexpensive.
4. Trail Walks: Fran will lead a walk on July 28th at Oak Hill. No volunteer available for an August trail walk. It was recommended that we compile a list of members and others who are willing to lead city trail walks.
5. Trail Maintenance:
 - a. The steward for Rolf Park and Contoocook River Trail, Chris Northrup, has moved out of town leaving those trails without a steward. Please give thought to who might step forward for this opportunity.
 - b. A short trail between Hampton St and S. Curtisville Rd. has been abandoned by a neighbor who was maintaining it. Our committee is reluctant to take it on. Gail will check on it.
 - c. Ron will make a list of what signs are needed on Oak Hill to reduce the confusion at some intersections. Also, people have reopened the rogue trail from the summit that Rik had covered with brush and removed blazes. Need sign there to indicate it is private property and not a trail.
 - d. Ron has finished the Murray Bluff re-route at Oak Hill. He will do more work above that trail. The intern will blaze the new route.
 - e. Also regarding Oak Hill, Beth reports that the city received a legacy of approximately \$1200 to be used at Oak Hill. One suggestion is to provide educational signage, describing Oak Hill's history and natural features. Fran added that in a conversation with Chris Hallowell, he

suggested signage at the vistas showing what one is seeing in the distance.

f. Ron notes that he had been told of blow-downs on the Jim Hill River Walk but someone else removed them before he got there. So as not to have it be a wasted trip, he worked to improve Daisy Beach.

6. Other business:

a. Davis Swett raised the suggestion to add a covered bridge to one of the trails. Construction would not be difficult, he states.

b. Stephanie Phillips relates that the city has an Instagram account. It is a good place to post photos of hikes and of attractive sights and plants, etc., highlighting the treasure of our lands. If the photos include other people, be sure and get verbal OK to take the photo and allow it to be posted.

Next meeting will be on 9/12/18 at 5:15. THERE IS NO AUGUST MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary