

Concord Conservation Commission
Meeting of the Trails Subcommittee
September 12, 2018

Present: Rob Knight (Chair), Rik Van Riel, Rob Talmadge, Jeff Lewis, Ron Klemarczyk, Beth Fenstermacher

Guests: Leslie Talmadge

1. Minutes from July's meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Beth provided a copy of the membership terms that were approved by the Conservation Commission at their August meeting. Rob T. had a question about how the terms were assigned, Jeff L. and Beth F. indicated that they thought it was random, but he can verify with Kris Tardiff (CC Chair).
3. Trail Walks: There are 2 upcoming hikes with AARP: Fran will lead a walk on September 22nd at the Riley Trails and Rob K. will lead a hike at Dimond Hill Farm. Rob K. recommended that we reach out to Fran to make sure she has someone to assist with the hike if there are slower walkers. Jeff indicated that he is available and can attend.

Gail will lead a hike on October 27th at the Swope to Winant Trail. It was recommended that we compile a list of members and others who are willing to lead city trail walks.

4. Retired monitors: Rob K. announced that Chris Northrop, Elaine Kellerman, and Brian & Fran Peirce have all retired as trail stewards. We are in need of stewards for Contoocook River Park, Rolfe Trails, East Sugarball Road, and Weir Road. Jeff recommended that we send out an email asking a volunteer to do the Fall check on those trails until a steward is assigned. There was also discussion about combining the E. Sugarball Trail with the Broken Ground under the same steward.
5. Trail Maintenance & Reporting:
 - a. Swope-Winant Connector – unauthorized trail onto private property. Beth reported that an owner along the trail emailed a report that he has had several people trespassing onto his property and partying at a lean-to. He does have cameras and no trespassing signs up, but that has not stopped the activity. There was discussion about how the lean-to was used by boy scouts, and as they are getting older, they know about it as a potential party spot. There was optimism that as those boys grow older, it won't be an issue in the future. Ron said that he would drop larger branches and brush out the trail. Rob K. came up with suggested language for signs at either end of the trail regarding respecting private property and sticking to marked trails; there was a suggestion to request that the property owner remove the lean-to, eliminating the attractive nuisance.
 - b. Vandalism at Broken Ground trail head. Ron recommended adjusting the kiosk so that it is harder to break the glass. He brought up the recommended street light; Beth said that neighbor would have to request it.
 - c. Ron reported that he ran into a disgruntled trail user at Swope Park who accidentally followed the private trail to Acorn Drive because the sign to the Jerry Hill Summit was misleading. Ron removed the sign and Beth placed an order for a new one with the correct arrow discussion. There was a lengthy discussion about whether we should add signs to that trail indicating that it goes to a neighborhood and is not a City trail. Some were concerned that this would actually

increase traffic on the trail and people would start parking on Acorn Dr. Others were concerned that we don't want to "over sign" the trails. There was general consensus about adding signs at all trailheads notifying people to stick to marked trails.

d. Rob K. provided a picture of Ron's construction work to improve the WEFT. All agreed the improvements were excellent.

e. Ron provided an update of work completed in July in August, including water sealing bridges at Weir Road Trail, Contoocook River Park and Riley Lot. The Murray Bluff ledge bypass was complete and blazed. He reported that he removed blowdowns at Swope parking lot, the Swope connector trails, the trail to Reserve Place, Contoocook River Park, Jim Hill Riverwalk and at Daisy Beach.

6. Other business

- a. Beth mentioned that time restrictions were placed by the Dimond Hill property owner for use of their property.
- b. The NEMBA MOU was approved and work on the Broken Ground mountain bike trails should be starting soon.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Next meeting will be on October 10, 2018 at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner