

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
October 10, 2018

Present: Fran Philippe, David Ross, Greg Manesto, Mike Lehman, Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Beth Fenstermacher, Jim Owers, Jeff Lewis, Rik Van Riel, Rob Talmadge, Gail Page

1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Community Trail Walks: On Sept. 22nd Fran lead a hike for AARP on the Riley Trail. There were 5 participants. On Oct. 6th Rob K. lead another AARP hike, this one on the West End Farm Trail at Dimond Hill. Only 3 hikers participated. In both instances many more persons had signed up.

In light of this and the fact that these exclusive hikes are interfering with our regular public hikes, the committee decided to invite AARP folks to come to the monthly public hikes but we will not lead separate hikes for the AARP. We will continue to offer one community hike per month. Rob K., Gail and Fran have been doing the hike leader duty and will continue, but welcome other committee members to volunteer to lead hikes and to participate as “sweep” for any scheduled hikes.

Upcoming hikes are October 27th at Swope/Winant Connector led by Gail and at Oak Hill on Nov. 17th led by Fran. Rob will lead December's hike, Gail will lead in January and Dave Ross will lead in February. Gail is also scheduled to lead a snowshoe hike in February for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute). In addition, Fran raised the idea of leading hikes for the blind, something mentioned by Nancy Druke at Future in Sight. By agreement of the committee, Fran will contact her to discuss how our committee can help with this.

3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting: Rob K has emailed all the trail stewards requesting them to do a fall sweep of their trails and make a trail report.

New stewards are needed for Contoocook River Park and Rolfe Park. East Sugarball will be done by Gail. Weir Road will be done by Ann Rice.

Rob K. will install some signs at the Contoocook River Park trailhead advertising the need for a steward. Fran will contact Merrimack Valley High School to see if they have a group that will take on Rolfe Park which they use for their track runners.

Signs: Tim Pifer brought the signs for Oak Hill and Russell Martin. Ron will install the Oak Hill signs with Rik and Mike. Greg will install the signs at Russell Martin. Rik volunteered to assist Fran with installing the remaining signs at Broken Ground and a local lawncare business, Thomson's Lawn Care, volunteered to re-install the BG signs that vandals had removed some months ago.

Rob T. removed a downed birch on the District 5 Rd trail. Rob K. cut back Multiflora Rose that was encroaching on the trail at Dimond Hill. Ron Klemarczyk cut two blowdowns on the Riley Lot, checked rot on the oxbow loop bridge on the Knight-Morono trail and will prepare an estimate of the cost of bridge repairs. He plans to smooth out the lower section of the Murray Bluff trail at Oak Hill with St. Paul's students' assistance. Both the trail across the field at Jim Hill and the powerline section of BG's Orange trail need mowing. Beth will inquire about funds

to rent a brush mower.

5. Other Business: Jim Owers of the Conservation Commission reported the city's acquisition of the Martin Lot next to Winant Park as well as a swap for the Lassonde lot which abuts the Martin lot. Jim updated us on the lot owned by Wayne and Scott Devoid which was posted against trespassing. The Devoids have said they will allow people to use their property if used respectfully. The subcommittee will obtain signs that warn against trash and building of rogue trails, etc. Similar signs are posted at the Raymond property and can be duplicated. A minimum of 6 signs are needed. Jim Owers will send wording of the signs to the landowners for their approval. The committee drafted a sign to be circulated among the committee for tweaking. Other trail groups like AMC might have samples to consider.

Beth reported that Ross View Farm owner has stopped bikers who are using city trails on his land. Hikers are allowed on the designated trails on Rossview Farm, but not bikes. Rik suggested that we erect a sign on the WEFT/Swope Connector directing bikers to detour down Dimond Road and Reserve Place to reach the Dimond Hill portion of the WEFT.

Next meeting will be held on November 14, 2018, 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary