

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee meeting minutes of November 14, 2018

Present: Beth Fenstermacher, Ron Klemarczyk, Jeff Lewis, Rob Knight, Greg Mannesto, Mike Schowalter, Rob Talmadge, Fran Philippe, Tim Pifer, Michael Lehman, Gail Page

1. Previous minutes accepted as written.

2. Community Trail Walks -

- a. Nov. 4th hike lead by Gail from Winant to Swope and back had 9 participants.
- b. Nov. 17 hike on inside trails at Oak Hill will be led by Fran. She needs a “sweep”.
- c. Dec. 15, Rob Knight will lead a hike in Swope Park
- d. David Ross will lead a January hike, date and location TBA.

3. Contoocook River Park and Rolfe Park Trail Monitors -

Signs asking for trail steward volunteers have been posted at the Penacook Community Center but not yet at the Contoocook River Park trailhead. Fran suggested an individual as potential volunteer trail steward for this trail. Rob K will contact him.

Fran attempted to contact the MVHS track coach to suggest they adopt Rolfe Park trails as monitors but received no response.

Nancy Druke from Future Insight has not responded to a call but Fran will try again. Mike Schowalter will also try and contact her regarding pairing sighted trail runners with blind persons wishing to run trails.

4. Trail Maintenance and Reporting -

a. Rob reported that 23 trails have been checked this fall by their monitors with 8 remaining to be checked. Some of those could use new stewards. Mike Schowalter's runners are possible prospects. Rob Knight will recontact monitors who have not reported on their trails.

b. The new mountain bike trail in Broken Ground is in place although the trail builders relocated the trail from where Ron K had designated. This means that a portion of the trail will run through the new cut area. Trail users will be notified to be aware of lumbering activity via signs and the city trails website. Planks over wet areas will be installed in the coming week. Plans are in the works for an official opening of this new trail but no date is set. There is a proposal to name the trail after Ry Perry, an avid trail biker, much accomplished and well liked local person who died suddenly this year.

c. Ron K reported that the rocky areas of the Murray Bluff trail on Oak Hill have been smoothed and the trail relocated where necessary. He had help from students from St. Paul's School on this project.

Ron K removed a downed tree at the O'Reilly trails. He also discovered a rogue trail in this system. Arrow signs are now installed where needed.

He repaired a bridge in Jim Hill River Walk, intends to remove a downed tree in

Winant, and repair a “spongy” plank bridge in Broken Ground. The pull-off parking area on Currier Road will be proposed for the budget in 2019.

- d. Trails in Walker Reserve are in need of new blazing and general improvement. Beth will contact the Walker Reserve owners association to go over trail plans with them.
- e. Rob Talmadge requests that the subcommittee members receive information via email between meetings on things such as new land acquisition, especially if more trails are contemplated. This concern arises as the city acquires the Devoid property adjacent to Winant Park. Rob T. asked, at what point is our subcommittee at maximum for maintaining trails?
- f. Tim Pifer raised the issue of bikes on the West End Farm Trail as related to the Ross Farm and its prohibition of bikes on the farm land. A related issue is signs installed by Don Ross at the end of District 5 Rd saying “no access beyond this point”. The area they have posted is not part of the WEFT trail system. Regarding bicyclists, Beth will make new trail maps to show bikers where they are prohibited and indicate an alternative route around Ross Farm. It was suggested that we ask the Concord Monitor to publish information on this change.

5. Signs -

The last of the signs for Broken Ground are getting installed this month. Ron K. will contact Rik and Mike to coordinate new sign installation on Oak Hill where there has been some confusion on the part of hikers.

Rob K reports that the mileage on a sign at the top of Jerry Hill in Swope Park is wrong.

6. Other business -

- a. Despite Beth getting information directly from Fish and Game about hunting seasons for the City website, Rob Talmadge says it is not correct. Rob volunteered to edit the site's content on this topic.
- b. Mike Showalter reports that Five Rivers Conservation Trust is planning to sponsor a running race on city trails to raise funds for its organization. Mike questions whether they need to get city permission for such a use of city trails. Beth indicated that yes, they should come before the Conservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary

Next meeting is on December 12 at 5:15, second floor conference room