

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Trails Subcommittee Meeting for December 12, 2018

Present: Tim Pifer, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Mike Lehman, Beth Fenstermacher, Audra Klumb, Rik Van Riel, David Ross, Mike Schowalter, Hilary Thomson, Fran Philippe, Gail Page. Guests from AARP: Jeannie Tucker, Linda Matson, Karen Ulmer Dorsey

1. Minutes of November 14 were approved with one correction. David Ross's will lead a hike in February, not January.
2. Beth introduced Jeannie Tucker of NH AARP who has offered funds from their "Livable Communities" initiative to install historic information signs and trail signs at the Bachelder Mill and Riley trail systems. AARP hopes its association with our trails will encourage their members to get outside and be active. The historic information signs and information at the trailheads will have an AARP logo and give credit to AARP as sponsor of the signs. Trail signs will not have AARP logos. In the spring there would be a ribbon cutting and guided walk to unveil the new signs. Rob Knight suggested they also consider historical signs at the ski jump and toboggan run at Russell Pond. AARP would be responsible for getting the signs, with our assistance in determining the location of the signs and getting historical information. *The Subcommittee accepted AARP's proposal.* Beth stated that the intern who served earlier this year will be available to assist from mid-December to mid-January.
3. Community Trail Walks -
 - November - Fran led a group of 3 at Oak Hill.
 - December 15 - Rob Knight will lead a hike on at Swope Park with Mike Lehman as "sweep".
 - January hike will be led by Gail Page
 - February 16 - David Ross will lead a hike at Carter Hill
 - March - Fran will lead a hike.
4. Trail Monitors for Contoocook River Park and Rolfe Park -
 - Fran will try again to contact the coach of the cross-country team at Merrimack Valley High School and suggest that stewarding Rolfe Park which they use for their practice, would be an excellent community service project.
 - Rob and Beth continue to look for a steward for Contoocook River Park. Mike Schowalter will ask his trail-runner group for volunteers. The Concord Young Professionals group are another possibility.
5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting -
 - Fall trail check: Rob reports all trails have been checked except Contoocook River Park, Rolfe Park, and Healy Park.
 - Signs: Ron K installed 16 new signs at Oak Hill. The remaining signs for Broken Ground will wait now until spring. Russell Martin sign installation: waiting for an update from Greg.
 - No bikes on Rossview signage: The subcommittee approved informational and directional signs for bike users of the WEFT and Connector Trail. They will be on posts on trails leading to Rossview. The new maps will be placed in the kiosks at Dimond Hill, Currier Rd and Carter Hill. The map of WEFT on the city website will have these additions and changes. Beth will research whether we can post a trail sign at the beginning of Old Dimond Road off Reseerve Place.

- Ron K has removed downed trees from trails at Winant, Swope, Carter Hill and Spears Parks. He noted signs of ATV use on one of our trails. Beth directs volunteers NOT to confront illegal users or call Fish and Game but to report as much information as obtainable to her office.
 - Rik reported that the trail at Walker Reserve is impassible at a couple of wet areas and at a blowdown area. Rob said Walker Reserve needs new signs and blazing as well. Beth and Rob will contact the homeowners association to get their agreement to do this work.
6. Other Business -
- Rob Knight will coordinate sending end of year thank-you letters to landowners with whom we have trail easements.
 - Mike Lehman agreed to prepare a draft annual report to the Conservation Commission on the subcommittee's activities for 2018. Rob Knight will present the final version at the February commission meeting. Fran suggested that we give the Concord Monitor a version of the annual report so as to get publicity for the trails committee's work for the citizens of Concord. There were no objections to this idea.
 - Matt Bowser's NEMBA biking group was unable to complete the bike trail at Broken Ground before winter. They will resume work in the spring and have a grand opening.
 - Jane Presby, who lives at Dimond Hill Farm, reports that she has had to rescue several hikers who misjudged how long their hikes would take. She suggests we add estimated walking time to the maps and signs. Subcommittee members agree this would be helpful for both the WEFT and at Oak Hill.
 - David Ross described a free "app" called "Maplets". All city trails are on it except Swope and the WEFT. This is not a city sponsored app.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Page, recording secretary Next meeting is January 9, 2019, 5:15