

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019

Present: Rob Knight, Chairperson, Tim Pifer, Vice Chairperson, Gail Page, secretary, Ron Klemarczyk – City Forester, Jeff Lewis and Jim Owers - Commission reps., Fran Philippe, Rob Talmadge, David Ross, Mike Lehman, Mike Schowalter  
Guests: Lynn Woodard, Don Ross, Leslie Talmadge, David Swett

1. Minutes of December 12, 2018 were approved as presented.
2. Community Trail Walks:
  - December 15, 2018 – Rob K and Mike S lead 7 hikers at Swope Park and included the Russell Pond historical recreation area
  - January's hike will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>, lead by Gail P at Broken Ground, Portsmouth St entrance
  - February 16, David Ross will lead a hike at Carter Hill
  - In March, Fran P volunteers to lead, details TBA

3. Proposed Winant/Walker connector trails

Jim Owers, following the new trail procedure, presented a suggested trail system on newly acquired land northwest of Winant Park. The new trail would make use of some of the older existing trails to connect Winant Park and the water tower area to Little Pond Rd. and the trails at Walkers Reserve. Currently portions of this land are crisscrossed with a confusion of unauthorized bike trails with many junctions. Jim suggests that an official trail might discourage the misuse of this land. Two of the proposed trails are on Walker State Forest and State permission to use them are needed. One connection to Long Pond Rd would need permission from Hillary Miscoe, owner of the land at that end. The impact on wildlife of creating and publicizing a new trail in this relatively small wooded area will be a consideration. The committee gave preliminary approval of the new trails, and a walk-through by the Trails committee and Conservation Commission members will be scheduled when the ground is bare. Beth F. will contact the state regarding official trails in the Walker State Forest. In the same area, we have posted signs at the edges of the Devoid property urging responsible use of that land.

4. Draft of Annual Report to the Conservation Commission:

Mike Lehman distributed copies of the draft report he prepared for review by the committee. He received several suggested additions such as the # of miles being stewarded, the # of stewards, tasks and priorities for 2019, and our new connection to NEMBA, the local organization of trail bike riders who have offered their assistance when needed.

5. Contoocook River Park and Rolfe Park Trail Monitors

We have enlisted new stewards for these two trails. For Rolfe Park, Melissa Johns; for Contoocook River Park, Peter Ivas. The trails have been without volunteers for some months.

6. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

- “No Bicycling” signs are up at Ross View Farm trail sections. We will need to see that they are not torn down. The farm owner, Don Ross, also requests that signs tell hikers to keep dogs leashed on his land. Also on the WEFT, Don has closed a spur trail to a glacial erratic due to apparent damage to the lichen on the boulder by the public.

- All trails have had their fall check-up with the exception of Terrill.
- Beth F. will reach out to Walker Reserve homeowners association about reblazing and improving their trails, including removing blowdowns.
- Ron K. has installed the new Vista Way sign on Oak Hill and notes a new rogue mt. bike trail at the vista.
- Ron K. rebuilt a bridge at Knight Morono Park on the Pond Loop.
- He cut away multiflora rose at Winant and replaced the kiosk covering with plexiglass at Broken Ground.
- Beth F. also reports that Morono Park will be closed temporarily while sewer work is done in the Spring.

7. Annual election of officers:

The current slate of officers were reelected for another year:

chair, Rob Knight

co-chair, Tim Pifer

secretary, Gail Page

8. Rob T was concerned that Jim Owers had scheduled a meeting with the state regarding the city's use of Walker State Forest without any notice to the Trails committee. Rob T. requests that any activity on behalf of the committee not already discussed at a regular meeting, be announced well ahead of time via email to each member so that, in the interests of transparency, all are fully informed and have an opportunity to add input or ask questions beforehand.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on February 13, 2019 at 5:15 in the city hall conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Page, recording secretary