

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Trails Subcommittee**  
**Minutes of March 13, 2019**

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 pm on March 13, 2019, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto; Fran Philippe; David Ross (alt); Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant City Forester; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission liaison

Absent: Mike Schowalter, Rik van Riel (alt), Mike Lehman (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Leslie Talmadge, Hilary Miscoe, Bill Murphy, Megan MacMullin, Tom MacMullin, Don Ross, Lynn Woodard

1. Minutes of last meeting accepted as amended (Item #4 regarding Oak Hill trails was amended).

2. Community Trail Walks:

Feb. 16 - David Ross' hike at Carter Hill had 9-10 satisfied participants. Discussed how we could ensure hikers bring appropriate winter gear (snowshoes or microspikes) and agreed to revisit this in the fall.

Mar. 16 - Fran Philippe will lead a hike at Winant Park; parking is arranged at Parker School.

Apr. 20 - Rob Knight will lead a hike at Contoocook River Park and will highlight the remains of an amusement park on the property.

May - Gail Page will lead a hike in May, details TBD.

3. Proposed Backwoods trails update:

Following last month's meeting Beth received word from the State Forests and Lands office denying our request to formalize a trail through Walker State Forest to Little Pond Road, citing lack of parking and no trail continuity. They only allowed the trail connection to Walker Reserve. Rob K said that having the sole trailhead at Walker Reserve would create too much impact on the neighborhood and that option is no longer being considered. Now a simple loop trail from Winant Park, all on City owned land, is being considered. This development was communicated to Megan MacMullin, chair of Walker Reserve's neighborhood association by a phone call from Rob Knight on 3/10/19. Ms. MacMullin raised concerns about hunting in Walker Reserve and the danger of hunters near the Walker Reserve neighborhood and the trails. The Walker Reserve attendees were informed that the Trails committee has no say over the state forest and that state hunting regulations would apply to their open space. Rob K offered to setup a meeting to address the ongoing concerns from Walker Reserve residents, as detailed in a letter received by the City on March 11, 2019, and Beth will email Megan several possible dates and times so Megan can choose a date convenient for the residents.

4. Country Hill Estates purchase (WEFT):

Rob Knight asked that the committee formally support the Conservation Commission's potential purchase of Country Hill Estates since the purchase is needed to protect the continuity of the WEFT. Country Hill Estates consists of two substantial, forested parcels of land at the end of District 5 Road,

and the WEFT crosses one parcel to connect from the road to Rossview Farm property. Rob Talmadge expressed concern that the city's ownership of this land might lead to the development of another trail system, which he opposes. Rob T. said he could only support the purchase if the statement also opposed any new trails on the property, ever, since Concord already has so many trails.

Don Ross and Lynn Woodard explained that the ownership of the land at the end of District 5 Road is more complex than it might seem.

After discussion, the committee voted to support the Conservation Commission's effort to preserve and protect the continuity of the WEFT.

#### 5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

-The trails at Oak Hill will not be reblazed with new, less confusing colors until the recently printed trail guides are used up. However, Ron Klemarczyk will put up signs so the routes are clearer.

-Ron reports removing nine blowdowns from Broken Ground and Riley trails. The trees on the Riley trails bordering Hoit Pond seem to be especially vulnerable to winds off the pond.

-There are some trees hung up on Weir Rd but are too dangerous to try to remove until they are weakened with time.

-The timber sale slated for Broken Ground did not get underway while the ground was frozen so it is canceled. New bids will be sought next year.

-Fran checked Locke Rd trails and recommends the trail be moved (again), further from the crumbling riverbank.

-Matt Bowser of NEMBA, New England Mountain Bike Assn., now intends to finish the bike trail at Broken Ground when snow has melted. It will be named Ry's Way in memory of Ry Perry who died this past year. Ry was a well liked and an avid trail biker.

- Beth F. was contacted by Ray Cote from Bow Pioneers snowmobile club, Beth mentioned the rogue trail off Carrier Rd and indicated she will be reaching out to the property owner. Ray offered to provide "Private Trail" signs to eliminate confusion.

-Fran Philippe asked about putting a Private Property sign in Winant Park on the orange trail at the corner where it turns right to go uphill to the vista. There is a well-worn old woods road going straight at that point. Ron agreed to put a sign there.

#### 6. Other Business:

Don Ross, owner of Ross View Farm, reported that someone had skied across his field near the WEFT. He requested the City supply five signs stating "At no time, ever, should anyone walk across this field. Nor should your pets." to be erected at the entrances of his field. Don also said the sign directing hikers to the "new" trail and bridge is no longer needed since the trail is well worn. Rob K offered to remove the sign when he is out there. Don also asked whether the trail arrows have reflective paint to help night-time trail users. Don is against night-time use of his property. It was explained that the signs were not ordered with reflective paint, but the prison sign shop used reflective paint as is their normal practice.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30. Next meeting is on April 10 at 5:15 in the City Hall conference room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, Secretary