

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
April 10, 2019

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 pm on April 10, 2019 in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Representative; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant City Forester; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto; Fran Philippe; Mike Schowalter; Rik Van Riel (alt); Mike Lehman (alt)

Absent: David Ross (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Bruce Bairstow, Hilary Miskoe, Lori Weston, Megan MacMullin, Leslie Talmadge, Ronald Resnick, Nicole Varasteh, Lynn Woodard, Don Ross, Bill Murphy

1. Minutes of March 13 meeting accepted with one edit: 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.
2. Community Trail Walks:
March 16th Fran led 15 hikers up and around all of Winant Park's trails for a 2 hour trip.
(of note, Beth received very positive comments from a participant about Fran's outstanding skills as a trail guide.)
April 20th Rob Knight will lead a hike at Contoocook River Park in Penacook and highlight some of the artifacts from its prior uses. Fran offered to help sweep.
May 4 Gail will lead a hike at Boscawen Town Forest
June 15 Rob K will lead a hike, Location TBD
3. Spring Trail Check: Rob Knight will email all trail stewards asking them to do a spring trail check of their trails and report any issues. If trees are down on any trails, that information should be emailed to Ron K with the location of the tree, cc to Beth F.
4. Proposed Backwoods trails update:
Beth reported that she and a representative from Division of Forests and Lands, and Rob K, Ron, and Jim Owers met with representatives of Walkers Reserve (WR) subdivision last week to address concerns raised by Walker Reserve residents. They reviewed the original subdivision plan and conservation easement regarding the trails and trail connections. The residents confirmed that they do not want any trail connection to Walker State Forest or Winant Park. Beth said there is no longer a plan for the Trails Committee to do maintenance on the WR trail, based in feedback from WR at the meeting. Nicole Varasteh from WR said that the community did want the Trails Community to maintain their trail and the trail needed maintenance. As WR's wishes regarding their existing trail are not clear, Rob Knight requested that an authorized representative of WR make a written response to the letter outlining the proposed trail work which Beth had sent them 1/16/2019,.
A gentleman from WR raised the issue of a lack of official parking space for non-resident hikers on the WR trails and cited possible fire department objection to parked cars on WR road. Beth said she would remove the parking symbol from their trail map.
5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
Ron Klemarczyk has completed an inventory of needed direction signs on Oak Hill as well as interpretive signs for historically significant sites. There are memorial funds for the interpretive signs. He re-

ports also that the fire tower has been taken down and is being replaced. Further, he reports that a private landowner on Oak Hill has done some logging near the summit.

At the Jim Hill Riverwalk a fallen tree has damaged the railings on a bridge. There may be additional damage to the structure, Ron will assess once the snow and ice melt.

Ron is creating a bypass near a vernal pool on Oak Hill.

At Broken Ground, Ron plans to move a bridge on the yellow trail.

At Russell Martin park, Greg has a sign but needs one post.

Previously reported AARP help for creating signs is awaiting their approval.

Beth F has the blue bags for litter pick-up. Once filled, call General Services and let them know where the bags are for collection.

Mike Showalter suggested we set a trails work day. A location and date will be determined.

Broken Ground's bike trail will be completed this spring. Beth F met with the biking organization but there is no date set for completion.

6. Other Business:

Don Ross addressed the committee and said he has temporarily closed the WEFT at the Saltmarsh field. People have been going into his field. He wants signs telling people to stay out of his field and feels the city should supply them. Beth said she has forwarded his suggested language to the state, they have to approve trail closure. Ron K. believes widening the trail there and making it more obvious will help. Ron K had suggested a rail fence at this point separating field from trail. Don said he is willing to look at what Ron proposes.

Don also expressed concern about his maple sap collecting which is right next to the trail. Since the State holds the easement, he will need to take this up with them.

Mud season hiking - The WEFT has some low, wet areas. It is desirable to direct spring hikers to trails that are dry. This could be done via the Concord Monitor, Facebook and the website. Trails could be posted during mud season. Mike Showalter will form an ad hoc group to discuss how this could be handled next spring.

Vandalism and crop theft - Don has experienced both on his farmland. Rob K. quoted the Forest Society forester: "good use drives out bad use", i.e. the more hikers use a trail the less opportunity for vandals to act.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15. Next meeting is May 8th in the City Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, Secretary