

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting June 12, 2019

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 on June 12, 2019 in the second floor conference room, City Hall, 41 Green St.

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Representative; Rob Talmadge; Fran Philippe; Rik Van Riel (alt.)

Absent: Greg Mannesto; Michael Schowalter; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant Forester; David Ross (alt); Michael Lehman (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner; Leandra Nault, summer intern

Guests: Kris Tardiff, Conservation Commission; Leslie Talmadge

1. May minutes were accepted as submitted.
2. Community Trail Walks: Rob Knight will lead a walk at Sewalls Falls on June 15. Fran Philippe changed her July 13 walk to a fern ID walk at Locke Rd. A volunteer is needed for August. Gail will lead a hike in September. Fran will lead a geology hike at Oak Hill in October. AARP sign dedication tentatively scheduled to occur in August at Batchelder Mill and Riley Trails.
3. Spring Trail Check, Maintenance and Reporting:
 - a) Healy Park and the Merrimack River Trail have not been checked. Both have homeless encampments on or near them. Rob K asked if we want to continue to have them in our trail map booklet and part of the city trail network. Discussed decommissioning trails. The Conservation Commission would need to have a public hearing to close a trail. Should we use our trail checklist to consider trails for closure? Beth will setup a trail walk at Healy Park.
 - b) Rik reported that many blazes are gone at Mast Yard after it was logged. It is a state property so Beth will reach out to the state to find out if they will blaze it. The City has improved the parking lot at Broad Cove Rd.
 - c) Rob Talmadge reports a downed tree at the Jim Hill River Walk near the connection to Mast Yard.
 - d) Fran reports a discarded tire at entrance to Locke Rd. Fran also says the Heritage Trail on Locke Rd needs a sign. Beth F. will arrange for one.
 - e) Signs for Oak Hill are ready. Ron will coordinate putting them up.
 - f) Ron Klemarczyk's report was presented by intern Leandra Nault. Ron and Leandra cut and removed downed trees at Spears Park and found rogue trails cut in the Stonehaven Condo Development Open Space owned by the city. Entrances are somewhat hidden and appear to not be used much. Downed trees were removed from Swope and Contoocook River Park, they also installed "Motorized Vehicles Prohibited" sign at Contoocook River Park. Ron K and Leandra cleaned up 4 bags of trash at homeless camps in Broken Ground off the Red trail and the Nowell Trail. They cut and removed deadfalls from the Locke Rd trail along the Merrimack River and moved two sections of trail further away from the eroding riverbank. St Paul's School tennis team assisted Ron in improving the emergency access for UTVs at Swope and removed a downed tree at the Monadnock vista. The Canal trail has a new plank walk thanks to Ron K. and two bridges on Oak Hill are repaired. Rock work and

leveling of Oak Hill trails are also completed. June 14 will see a bridge replacement at Batchelder Mill Rd. Ron K. requests assistance of 2-3 persons. The Swope-Winant connector and two trails at Oak Hill experienced prolonged muddiness this spring. Ron K submitted cost estimates to prevent this problem in the future. He also suggests closing certain trails during unusually rainy periods until they are dry.

Mike Showalter, Rik Van Riel and Rob Talmadge are conferring on a plan for signage and other ways to notify people to stay off trails when they are wet and will have a proposal by mid-winter.

- g) Rob Knight noted that many of the trails need reblazing. The paint is still stored at Fran Philippe's porch and can be picked up any time. Ron K. will do any paint purchases needed. Tim and Rik said they would be willing to do some blazing. The West End Farm Trail is in need of a sign showing hikers how to cross Rt. 89.
- h) Regarding the closure on the WEFT, deputy city solicitor Danielle Pacik will be reaching out to Lynn Woodard, owner of property at the end of Dist. 5 Rd. in hopes of resolving trail access issues. Beth has given Don Ross signs to erect prohibiting trespass on his corn field and made the correct trail more visible. The city is in process of purchasing the Country Hill Estates land which will firm up access to the WEFT going north from District #5 Road.
- i) The residents of Walker Reserve have decided that they will do the maintenance on the trail behind their development. The trails committee will be available for support as needed and will still have a trail steward annually monitor the trail.
- j) Rik Van Riel reported that the WEFT along Turkey Pond is often either ankle deep in water or a blanket of sheer ice. He will improve drainage on the trail but will ask permission from Audubon Society to work on the trail.
- k) Beth and Leandra will attend a session presented by "Leave No Trace" organization at Mt. Major. Leandra will use the information for teaching children about trail use ethics.
- l) Beth reports that a family donated funds for a granite bench on Oak Hill in memory of a man who died 4 years ago. They hope to install it this July. How to get it in place remains to be determined. Fran suggested asking the National Guard helicopter unit to assist. Beth will inquire.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gail R. Page, recording secretary