

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
September 11, 2019

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 on Sept 11, 2019 in the second-floor conference room City Hall, 41 Green St.

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission representative; Rob Talmadge; Fran Philippe

Absent: Michael Schowalter; David Ross (alt); Michael Lehman (alt); Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Greg Mannesto, Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant Forester; Rik Van Riel (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Justin Muccio, Sarah Heffner

1. Minutes of the July 10th meeting were approved.
2. Trail walks:
 - On August 11 Dave Ross lead 8 participants on the Jim Hill River Walk.
 - On August 23rd, Fran, Gail and Beth lead approximately 30 AARP members on a hike at Batchelder Mill trails. Newly installed informational signs along the trails provided by AARP were visible and appreciated.
 - On September 28 Gail will lead a hike at Broken Ground on the new bike trail.
 - October 19th Fran plans a geology hike at Oak Hill.
 - The November hike will be led by Rob Knight, date and location TBD.
3. Trail Maintenance:

There was a visit to Healy Park on July 11 for members of the Conservation Commission and Trails Subcommittee. The park is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department but the trail is on the Trails Subcommittee's list of trails. It is not being maintained by either party and is home to some of the City's homeless population. Its location right next to the 93 highway and is a detraction. For the immediate future, Beth will label it "closed for maintenance" on the website and close the link to it. Meanwhile, the Conservation Commission will bring the matter before the city council for a decision as to the future of this trail. David Gill, director of Parks and Recreation will see that a broken gate is replaced to stop vehicles from entering the park.

The Jim Hill River Walk trails are brushy and need attention. An herbicide has been applied to poison ivy and bittersweet here and at Merrill Park and Oak Hill.

Oak Hill's Luti and Ovenbird trails need brushing and new blazing. A work day is scheduled for September 17th.

At Broken Ground, the trail junction signs that had been vandalized will be re-erected by Rob Knight and Fran.

Work is needed on the lower trail at Carter Hill Orchard. It needs to have wet areas addressed and be reblazed. Permission from the Orchard owner will be obtained before doing the work.

Rob Knight reports that the WEFT along Turkey Pond from the NH Audubon property to the bike path is very brushy and we have an earlier report of poor drainage. Rob will get permission from Audubon to work on this portion of the trail.

Beth reports that none of the proposed meeting dates to discuss the WEFT closure have been acceptable to the Woodards. A closing on the city's acquisition of Country Hill Estates land is set for Sept. 27th. Once that has occurred, there may be opportunity to consider alternate trail routes. Rob Talmadge points to the need to keep some forests free of trails and human presence for the sake of wildlife.

Ron Klemarczyk reported via written notes that a memorial bench donated by Kathy Cahill for her son, Brendan, has been installed at Oak Hill on Vista Way. Also, a bench donated to honor Tim Pifer on his retirement was installed on the Monadnock Vista at Swope Park. Both were hauled to their locations by volunteer Tom Nault on his ATV.

Ron and intern Leandra erected additional AARP-donated signs at Riley Trails. They replaced a broken board on a plank walk on Broken Ground's Nowell Trail, deadfalls were removed at Swope Park, Carter Hill Connector and Oak Hill. Brush removed on Vista Way on Oak Hill as well as Swope Park. Oak Hill's Dancing Bear Trail required two visits to eliminate a hornet's nest. Oak Hill's Luti Loop, Merrill Park and Jim Hill River Walk all received herbicide treatment for invasives by city contractor, Prescott Towle.

Ron installed temporary signs to warn hikers of logging on private property adjacent to Oak Hill's fire tower.

The Swope-Winant Connector Trail seasonal wet areas have been addressed as well as at the Upper Trail on Oak Hill.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary