

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Trails Subcommittee Meeting  
November 13, 2019

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 on November 13, 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; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant Forester; Greg Mannesto, Rob Talmadge, Fran Philippe, Mike Schowalter, Ric Van Riel (alt.)

Absent: Michael Lehman (alt.)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Krris Tardiff, Conservation Commission Chair; Justin Muccio, Sarah Heffner, Greg Sturgeous, Judy Weatherbee,

Minutes: The committee approved the October minutes as written.

Community Trail Walks:

- Fran had 18 participants for her geology walk at Oak Hill on October 19th. They stopped at 6 points of interest.
- Rob Knight led 11 hikers north on the WEFT from Diamond Hill on November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Gail will lead a hike on Dec 14 at Merrill Park and the Forest Society
- In January Fran will bring hikers around the Audubon Society Trails

Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

- Chairperson Rob Knight reports trail stewards have done fall trail checks except for the Merrimack Greenway. The Conservation Commission will take up the question of whether to close this trail and the Healey Park trail due to homeless encampments.
- The subcommittee has held 5 work sessions on Tuesdays. These sessions will resume when weather permits. Meanwhile, volunteers have reported 141 hours of trail maintenance so far this year. There are likely more hours worked that haven't been submitted.
- Ron K installed a plank walk on the Lower Trail on Oak Hill at an area of wet ground in the spring
- The old trail on Murray Bluff trail on Oak Hill keeps getting opened up by hikers despite brush piled at its entrance. It is important to keep it closed due to spring mud and a vernal pool on the old trail. The new trail bypasses these places.
- Ron K has removed numerous fallen trees at various locations.
- Ron K has replaced the Broken Ground's kiosk's plexiglass that was vandalized. He also moved the kiosk further from the parking lot.
- Mowing at the Riley Lot is done.
- AARP's donated signs for Batchelder Mill and Hoit Marsh platform are in place.
- Per Ron K, the timber sale that was not done last winter at Broken Ground may get done this coming winter.
- James Owers of the Conservation Commission has asked about the possibility of a trail on the newly acquired Hardy Lot.

- Matt Bowser of NEMBA let the subcommittee know that the “Ry's Way” sign for the bike path at Broken Ground was taken but another is ready to be installed. NEMBA has blown leaves from the bike trail.
- The idea of blowing leaves from other trails was soundly rejected by the subcommittee as it increases erosion and the noise would be disturbing to wildlife.
- The city road crew painted over the graffiti on logs that line the parking lot at Broken Ground on Curtisville Rd.
- Fran suggested setting up a schedule that would assure blazes are maintained on a regular basis. The subcommittee will take this up at a future meeting.

Donation from South Congregational Church Youth Group:

The group donated \$100.00 to the Trails Subcommittee. Two ideas for using it mentioned were tools or tool maintenance or a first aid kit to take to trail work sites. No firm decision as yet.

Backwoods Loop Trail:

The subcommittee desires to have one blazed trail on this property in order to discourage use of the rogue trails there now. In accordance with the subcommittee's policy on new trails, a date for walking the proposed trail location will be set.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2019 at 5:15 in the City Hall second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, secretary