

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
February 12, 2020

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 on February 12, 2020 in the second-floor conference room, City Hall, 41 Green St.

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Fran Phillippe; Greg Mannesto; Rik Van Riel (alt)
Jeff Lewis, Commission Rep; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant Forester;

Absent: Michael Schowalter; David Ross (alt.)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Hillary Miskoe; Rebecca Woodard Ross; Kris Tardiff, Conservation Commission; Megan MacMillan

Minutes: The committee approved January's minutes as written.

Trail Walks:

1. January's trail walk with Fran had 19 participants.
2. On February 15, Rob Knight will lead a hike at Broken Ground.
3. On February 22, David Ross will conduct a hike at Carter Hill on behalf of OLLI. Fran volunteered to help with the hike.
4. March 21st Gail's walk will be at Boscawen Town Forest.
5. Fran will decide on a walk for April 25th.

Due to there being too many email addresses now on our list for the server, Beth Fenstermacher will work on a new way to notify hikers of upcoming hikes.

Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

1. Ron K. removed a downed tree on the Winant trail.
2. Ron K. notified the Concord PD about an illegal camp on the Oak Hill Tower Trail.
3. The timber sale at Broken Ground will be completed next week. Its impact is mainly on Ry's way bike trail but the harvester will clear away all slash. Impact will be temporary; the trail is still usable.
4. The kiosk at Batchelder Mill needs repair.

Other Business:

- a. The meeting held to review the Trails Master Plan was well attended with 75 persons present. It was video'd by CCTV. Topics covered were participants' favorite trails, property connections, wildlife preservation, maintenance of trails and a vision statement for the trail system. So far, there have been 450 responses to the survey on the trails website. *Sub-committee members should also respond.* Having a list of major concerns and desires of trail users will be helpful when approaching City Council. A draft of the master plan for trails will be ready in April of this year. It will come to this committee for comment, then to a public meeting.
- b. The state has blocked the rogue trails on Walker State Forest in order to protect habitat and wetlands. They intend to erect cameras to record illegal trail construction. Scott Rolf of NH

Division of Natural and Cultural Resources says he will allow two historic trails on this land to remain open. The Trails Committee's plan for a loop trail on adjoining land will not affect or be affected by the state's ban.

Kris Tardiff added that a similar situation exists on the state forest land near District 5 Rd. The state wishes to maintain this forest for wildlife only.

- c. Mike Showalter, Rik Van Riel, Tim Pifer and Rob Talmadge will draft signage to protect trails during mud season, and produce a list of Concord's trails that can best be used during mud season. This will help hikers avoid seasonally wet trails and reduce the negative impact on the trails. They will report back at the March meeting.
- Trails Procedure -Public notification policy - Jeff Lewis relayed a Conservation Commission concern that there should be outreach to concerned abutters when new trails are proposed. This would not be a blanket, formal notification policy, since each case is unique. Rob Knight volunteered to draft language to be added to the Trails Procedure regarding contacting concerned abutters when new trails are proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25.

Next meeting date: March 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary