

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
March 11, 2020 Minutes

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 on March 11, 2020 in the second-floor conference room, City Hall, 41 Green St.

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

Absent: David Ross (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Marie and Mark Redman; Rebecca Woodard Ross; Megan MacMillan

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

Trail Walks:

1. On February 15, Rob Knight lead 12 members of the public and 3 trails committee hikers at Broken Ground.
2. The February 22, OLLI hike at Carter Hill was cancelled due to foul weather.
3. March 22nd, Gail's walk will be at Boscawen Town Forest.
4. Fran will lead a hike from Carter Hill to Swope on April 25
5. Rob will lead a hike in May.

Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

1. Ron reports that the timber sale at Broken Ground is finished and the slash is removed.
2. Ron has removed a downed tree on Ry's way at Broken Ground and at the Riley Lot.
3. The relocated trails on Oak Hill are getting used but the old, closed trail is also being used. Ron has prepared a sign explaining the rerouting of the trail and asking hikers to respect the change.
4. An abutter to Oak Hill has conducted a timber sale, opening up the view from the fire tower.
5. The Concord PD removed the camper on Oak Hill's Tower Trail. He left no trash.
6. The "cut and fill" done on Swope needs further work.
7. Fran noted the need to renew blazes on Krupa Loop on Oak Hill and the existence of low branches over the trail. Some committee members believe it is a seldom used trail and perhaps should be eliminated. There may be other trails to consider closing. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
8. Rob Knight notes that repainting faded blazes can start soon. Paint is still on Fran's porch and can be accessed at will. Volunteers should provide their own paint brushes. Beth reminded the committee that there is still money that was donated by the South Congregational Church youth group, and to let her know what supplies she should buy.

Other Business:

- a. Protection of trails during mud season: "Mud season" has become harder to predict in recent

years and our trails vary in degree of muddiness. The committee agreed that on-line notices are best so that as conditions change, so can the notice. Some reliably muddy trails could also have temporary signs advising hikers to avoid them along with trail etiquette for these conditions. The sub-committee of Rob Talmadge, Tim Pifer, Mike Schowalter and Rik Van Riel prepared a draft etiquette advisory. The committee suggested some edits and then it was approved for posting.

b. Trails Procedure – Public Notification: Rob Knight presented his draft of additions to the Procedure for Approving a New Trail. The additions have to do with notifying abutters to new trail systems and seeking their feedback. With a few changes, the new additions were approved.

At the next meeting we will plan for trail walks at the newly acquired Knowlton Woods on Oak Hill and Backwoods adjoining Winant Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13.

Next meeting date: April 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary