

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails Subcommittee Meeting

April 8, 2020, 5:15 pm

Minutes - DRAFT

Present: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Fran Philippe; Mike Schowalter; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto; David Ross (alt); Rik Van Riel (alt); Jeff Lewis, Commission Rep; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant City Forester; Beth Fenstermacher, City Planning Dept, Conservation Commission members: Jim Owers and Kris Tardiff
Public attendees: Rebecca Ross

The committee was authorized to meet electronically due to COVID-19. Chair Rob Knight called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

As Chair of the Concord NH Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Subcommittee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, and instructions are provided on the City of Concord's website at:

www.concordnh.gov/planning

With Regard to providing public access to the meeting;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Subcommittee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through visiting the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/829848841>.

If you do not have website access, you may dial the following phone number 929-205-6099 and enter the webinar id 829 848 841.

For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, *via* the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial *9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.

With Regard to providing the public with a way to alert us about access problems;

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-225-8515 or send an email to: planning@concordnh.gov.

With Regard to adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting;

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

With that, let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Reminder for the public

If you have a question or any trouble accessing this meeting please call the planning dept. at 603-225-

8515 or send an email to: planning@concordnh.gov

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Reminder to Subcommittee members

- Please mute yourself when not speaking.
- Please raise your hand in the participants section of your Zoom screen.
 - Also, if viewing in gallery view. Wave your hand in front of the camera to make sure you are heard.
- In your zoom screen, change your view in the upper right corner from speaker view to gallery view to see all panelists.

Agenda items

1. Motion by Dave and second by Tim to approve Secretary’s minutes. Passed

2. Community hikes suspended until further notice. Rob K. noted that Concord residents are lucky to have so many local trails available, unlike other large cities.

3. Rob will send out reminder to trail stewards that it’s time for their spring trail check.

4. Ron reported:

- Oak Hill - the tree that was reported down had been cut up when he got there
 - after two weeks the brush blocking the closed trail was still there, a record!
- Rolfe Park - there was a tree top hanging over the trail from a downed maple, with a bypass already around it. He worked with Parks & Recreation staff, they were able to throw a rope up over it and pull it down
- Merrill Park – Beth has been in contact with Parks & Recreation Department regarding trees down on the west side of the trail. Because they have little work, they will do the clean-up.
- Winant Park – finished removed the downed tree on abutter's property and raked out the ditches on the trail from the UU Church as they were overflowing and washing down the trail.
- Jim Hill River Walk- Dave inquired about the downed tree. Ron K removed it.

The City Manager’s Office thanked us for all the trail work that we’ve done and advised us to follow social distancing recommendation and prioritize volunteer safety, out of caution and safety, not to pick up any trash and leave it until after the Corona virus outbreak is over.

Due to overflow parking at Swope Park, emergency/no parking signs have been installed on the east side of the street. A more permanent solution will be considered after the Parking Committee is back in action. There was discussion about extending the parking lot, but due to the terrain, if it was done, Ron said it would only provide 2 or 3 more spaces. And, in the past, the neighbor across the street indicated he doesn’t want to look at the cars.

5. Rob said that work parties are off for now, but encouraged members to do any project they might see, on their own, particularly refreshing blazes. Rob plans to reblazing the WEFT. On Oak Hill,

Terry's Turn and Krupa could use blazing improvement. Fran will reblaze the Canal Trail off the East Concord Heritage Trail and the Jim Hill River Walk. Brown paint used to cover graffiti at Batchelder Mill needs refreshing. Fran will do this. Ron will purchase paint buckets and brushes with donated funds and leave them on Fran's porch for any of us to take and use.

6. Back Woods Trail (proposed) - The proposed trail has been flagged by Ron. Beth will send out a map with GPS track. Trails committee members and Conservation Commissioners are encouraged to walk the trail. It mostly uses existing unofficial bike trails but where the bike trails cross onto abutters' land an alternate route was flagged. The trail crosses a small corner of one abutter's land, Jim Owers is working with the abutter to formalize his permission. Next month the committee will vote on whether or not to proceed with this trail. Rob Knight noted that he planned to walk the proposed trail April 16, and anyone was welcome to hike along behind.

Knowlton Woods on Oak Hill - The plan to revise the proposed trail to avoid deer habitat turns out to be difficult due to terrain. Jim Owers and Matt will lay out a trail with flagging for the committee to approve. Actual trail building will wait until some planned logging is completed nearby. Jim will let us know when the trail is blazed so members can walk the proposed trail.

Fran suggests adding Winant Park to the list of spring muddy trails. Improvement of the trail section from Fisk Rd. is needed. Also, the Oak Hill Rd small parking lot could use some fill to eliminate mud holes. Ron says the City's General Services Dept can supply this.

Notably, Fran is in the process of hiking all 81 miles of city trails, not coincidentally, at age 81.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10. Next meeting will be on May 13 at 5:15, possibly via Zoom. Watch for an email announcement.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page (with assistance of Fran Philippe at start of meeting)