

# CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails Subcommittee Meeting

May 13, 2020, 5:15 pm

Minutes

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Fran Phillippe; Greg Mannesto; Mike Schowalter; David Ross (alt); Jeff Lewis, Commission Rep  
Absent: Rik van Riel (alt); Ron Klemarczyk, City Forester

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Kristine Tardiff and Jim Owers of the Conservation Commission, 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](mailto: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](mailto:planning@concordnh.gov)*

*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.*

**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. Minutes: The committee approved the April 8, 2020 minutes as written.
2. Community hikes suspended until further notice.
3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
  - a. Rob Knight reports that all city trails have been checked except for Swope (Mike Schowalter volunteered to check Swope), with the following exceptions: Healey Park is closed for maintenance (occupied by homeless camps); Terrill trails are being worked on by the Recreation Department; Walker’s Reserve will be checked by the homeowner association. Rob K. restated that he encourages the Conservation Commission to have the Merrimack River trail removed from our trail network.
  - b. Beth Fenstermacher asked that trail stewards check kiosks for signs that are faded or damaged and need replacement.
  - c. Beth reported that a small portion of the West End Farm Trail/woods road off Currier Road crosses private land. Ron has rerouted the trail onto City land. Beth has advised the snowmobile club of this also. The Carter Hill Connector trail north of District 5 Rd., is not open to bikes or horses per our agreement with the landowner. Beth has corrected our trail maps to reflect this. Fran notes that some WEFT signs are missing and need to be replaced. Rob recommends a map sign at Old Dimond Rd and the connector trail junction. Sometimes cars are parked on District 5 Rd. and on Currier Rd. at the trail crossings. There is a log landing on District 5 Rd. that would be a preferred parking area. However, parking issues on Concord roads need to be handled by the city parking committee, not the trails sub-committee. Please report problems directly to Beth, do not contact other city departments.
  - d. Work projects are attached to this month's agenda. Since we cannot work in groups for now, individuals should take on tasks as they have the time and inclination. Please report your trail work hours to Rob Knight or David Ross.
  - e. Gail raised the matter of hikers with dogs bagging the feces but leaving the bags. Mike Schowalter will compose a sign to be used at trailheads. He will consult with “Leave No Trace” organization for wording.
4. Backwoods Trail:

The proposed trail goes over a short portion of an abutter's land. The landowner has ok'd this. Jim Owers has notified all abutting landowners of the proposed trail system. The committee voted to recommend the trail proposal to the Conservation Commission. Per Jim Owers, the CC will take it up at tonight's meeting, and they will vote on whether to set a public hearing on this new trail for June 10<sup>th</sup> to be followed by a CC vote to approve or not. Rob Talmadge reported that the parking lot at the start of Winant Park (which is the access to Backwoods Trails) is often full to overflowing onto Fisk Hill Rd. It was commented that this may be a temporary problem during the corona virus outbreak and people seeking outdoor relief from social isolation.

5. Knowlton Woods Trail:

Parking location for this trail is still undetermined. An abutter submitted a letter expressing concern that the preferred location (using the proposed log yard) may create runoff issues. Jim Owers has marked the proposed trail with surveyors tape and offered to lead a hike for sub-committee members. Potential dates for a committee hike will be circulated. Beth will gather names of participants. Notice to abutters will be done by Jim. The trail criteria list was completed and distributed.

6. Other Business:

a. Beth informed us that when doing trail work, we should wear masks to be consistent with city workers' requirement during the virus pandemic.

b. The sub-committee said good-bye and thanks to Tim Pifer who is moving up north and consequently resigning as of today. He will certainly be missed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM

Next meeting will be held on June 10, 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, secretary