

# CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails Subcommittee Meeting

June 10, 2020, 5:15 pm

Minutes

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

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Kristine Tardiff and Jim Owers of the Conservation Commission, Rebecca Ross, Andrew Pinard, Judy Weatherbee

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 May 13, 2020, with one correction at #3 of Trail Maintenance and Reporting, Rob Knight, not Fran Philippe, noted need for some signs on at Old Dimond Road.

2. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

- a. Mike Schowalter has checked the WEFT.
- b. The Riley trails need brushing on the pond side due to spring growth. Fran and Greg will set a date for a work day for this task. Another tree is down at this preserve.
- c. O'Reilly-Fletham trails do not need new blazing, per David Ross. Ron K. removed several blow downs, and noted that it was more work than the one tree down that was reported. Ron needs more description of the work needed, here and on all trail systems.
- d. Rob Knight has reblazed the WEFT north of Dimond Hill Farm. However the WEFT south of District #5 Road has been blocked by the landowner, and the blazing removed.
- e. The logging access road created for the timber sale on Broken Ground has been upgraded.
- f. Per Ron Klemarczyk, he installed a sign on Oak Hill at the vista showing what mountains are in the view.
- g. Ron removed some rocks in the trail on Luti Loop at Oak Hill. Fran found a tree down on the Lower trail but believes Bob Erlenwein removed it.
- h. Ron K. marked the boundary at Country Hill Estates.
- i. In Swope Park, the cut and fill work is eroding. Ron K will install some pressure treated logs. Rob K. reminds Ron that he can ask for volunteers from the subcommittee. Ron K will have an intern again this year but knows the subcommittee is also willing to help.
- j. Andrew Pinard offered praise for this subcommittee and asked about the Healey and Terrill Park closings. Terrill Park is closed due to the city's improvements of the park and trail. Healey Park is closed due to the homeless camps on the trails.
- k. Mr. Pinard also noted that trails at Walker Reserve peter out and are not well maintained. Beth noted that those trails are maintained by the neighborhood association.

3. Back Woods Trail:

Per Jim Owers, a public hearing on this new trail is also set for 7:00 this evening, after which the Conservation Commission will vote whether or not to approve the trail.

4. Knowlton Woods Trail:

Members of the Trail Committee and the Conservation Commission hiked the proposed trail with Jim Owers and were pleased with the plan. Jim Owers presented a revised criteria check-list for this trail. The main change concerns parking: on-site parking will be created for up to 6 cars on Hot Hole Pond Rd. Another 10 spots will be accessible at the main Oak Hill trailhead parking lot on Shaker Rd. If this is not enough, it can be revisited. However fewer hikers are predicted to be using the trails after the covid virus stay at home order has diminished. Ron and the Engineer will address any neighbor concerns such as rainwater runoff.

Logging planned for this lot may be delayed due to lower timber prices at this time. When it does occur, there will be a trail crossing for the logging vehicles. The Conservation Commission has approved the timber sale. The subcommittee voted to recommend the Knowlton Woods Trail to the Conservation Commission. Mike Schowalter made the first motion, Greg Mannesto seconded it. Jim hopes the Conservation Commission hopes will schedule a public hearing on the trail at their July meeting.

5. Other Business:

David Ross has requested to become a regular member of the committee, filling the vacancy left by Tim Pifer's resignation.

Judy Weatherbee has contacted Beth Fenstermacher about joining on the subcommittee. Judy has been doing considerable trail work on numerous trails and does an excellent job. Beth will submit her name to the Conservation Commission as an alternate.

All agreed that these requests should move forward to the Conservation Commission for appointment.

Meeting motioned to adjournment at 6:15 PM

Next meeting will be held on July 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, secretary