

# CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails Subcommittee Meeting

August 12, 2020, 5:15 pm

Minutes

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto; Judy Weatherbee; Mike Schowalter; Rik van Riel (alt); Ron Klemarczyk, City Forester; Jeff Lewis and Kristine Tardiff of the Conservation Commission

Absent: Fran Philippe; David Ross (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Dan Williams, Matt Bowser (NEMBA)

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. The July 8, 2020, minutes were accepted as written.
  
2. Lengthy discussion of written proposal from guest Dan Williams re: temporary closure of Ry's Way at Broken Ground during all or part of deer hunting season in the fall. He provided information about a similar situation in Vermont where trails were closed to hikers during hunting season. Dan also voiced concern that, from his experience, cyclists pose a risk to hikers due to their speed and soundless approach, as well as a nuisance for wildlife since the cyclists use the trails after sunset. Dan referenced a pamphlet published by NH Fish and Game that describes the human effect on wildlife in field and forest. Per this pamphlet, wildlife is impacted as much as 400' on both sides of a trail. Jim Owers pointed out that there are numerous other areas open to hunting in the city including state, city and private lands and he does not favor trail closures for hunters.

Matt Bowser of Central NH Mountain Bikers Association which constructed the Ry's Way bike trail represents that his organization would not oppose a temporary trail closure.

Ron Klemarczyk suggested that the east side of the yellow trail also be closed to provide a larger area for wildlife during November.

Gail and Rob Talmadge moved that Ry's Way be closed during November. Matt Bowser asked how the success of this action will be measured. Rob Knight expressed doubt that such a temporary closure will have a meaningful benefit for wildlife. Dan Williams will provide more information on how this sort of action has worked in Vt. and elsewhere. Gail requested that her motion be tabled until the next meeting. All agreed.

3. Backwoods Trails:  
Ron Klemarczyk has installed a new plank walk and bridge with the help of five volunteers. The cart path is not fully completed as yet. He has closed the two trails that cross private property (Hines). An eagle scout is planning a plank walk on the yellow trail near the water

tower.

4. Other Trail Maintenance:

Ron Klemarczyk has removed downed trees at Winant Park, cut three leaning trees at Weir Rd., removed a tree at Riley Trails and replaced some decking on the pond overlook there. He has done more cut and fill on a trail at Swope Park, created a ditch and plank walk on the Nowell Trail at Broken Ground, and determined alternate location for a muddy trail at Batchelder Mill. Future work to be done building a bridge at Knight/Morono Park after the Clark St sewer line is complete. Ron is preparing for a timber sale at Knowlton Woods.

5. Beth Fenstermacher has received a letter from Peter Jones, an abutter to O'Reilly-Fleetham Trails, asking that this committee improve signage to prevent hikers from trespassing on his land. Beth will work on appropriate signage.

6. Rob Knight asked if anyone is aware of hurricane damage on our trail system. Ron Klemarczyk has seen very little damage.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 after expressions of gratitude to Mike Showalter who is moving away.

Next meeting is Sept. 9, 2020 at 5:15

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, secretary