

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
January 13, 2021

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto, David Ross; Fran Philippe; Ben Stephenson (alt.); Kristine Tardiff and Jeff Lewis of the Conservation Commission; Ron Klemarczyk, consultant city forester
Absent: Judy Weatherbee; Rik Van Riel (alt)
Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

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.

Agenda items

1. Minutes: November's minutes were accepted as written. (Dec.'s meeting was canceled)

2. New Trail Updates: Knowlton Woods

Per Ron Klemarczyk, the timber sale is complete. The log yard will become the parking lot for the new trail but it will not be opened until work is completed on it after mud season. Word is out that a new trail is in the works and there is evidence the skid trail is being walked on by the public. Subcommittee

members are ready to work on the new trail. We will coordinate with Matt Bowser and Jim Owers who have taken the lead on trail work. This work should not be done when there is snow cover, which makes it impossible to cut stumps close to the ground. Ron K. will set out new trail flagging to replace what has faded.

3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

Oak Hill – Ron K has cleared the tree and shrub growth that was blocking the view at Swope Slope. Overflowing Shaker Rd. parking lot on weekends shows need for the new trail at Knowlton Woods.

WEFT - Ron has improved the bypass and installed a new culvert around the blocked portion of the trail north of Currier Rd. There is a new parking lot off Currier Rd, but it will not be plowed this winter to avoid damaging the new gravel surface.

Swope Park - Ron K has arranged for a brontosaurus to clear the lake view.

Batchelder Mill – New plexiglass is in place at the kiosk on N. Curtisville Road.

Morono Park - Need to get new plexiglass and replace the map showing the Clarke Street connector.

Heritage Trail – Fran has met people looking for the Heritage Trail while at Locke Rd. The Heritage Trail in Concord has no beginning and no end. It doesn't seem to be actively pursued by its original advocates. This subcommittee discussed whether to abandon it and remove it from our maps. Fran will contact a Heritage Trail committee member and let them know we have decided to no longer include it in the city trail network.

Locke Rd. Trails – Fran, the trail steward for this area, recommends creating a loop trail that runs from the end of the riverside trail inland and back onto the riverside trail. She has a potential route that does not have wet areas. Rob Knight and Fran will walk the same loop in the spring.

Further regarding Locke Rd. Trail, the portion of the trail that leaves the woods and skirts a field, then uses a city road as its course, is unknown to most hikers. It is on the map, but the map doesn't make it clear that you are leaving forest and walking a rather lengthy distance on field and road to return to your car. Subcommittee recommends that we discuss it further.

4. Other Business:

a. 2021 Goals – Discussed what Subcommittee members would like to accomplish in the coming year. Rob K. started a list (attached) which will be revisited at the next meeting.

b. Signage: Beth states that there is a list of standard kiosk contents. Subcommittee suggests adding bike etiquette, e.g. letting hiker know you are approaching, and maybe a lost and found notice? Rob K asks how much is too much? Will people stop and read many notices? Beth suggests some signs could be installed on the trails. Fran volunteered to take a photo of a well-arranged kiosk. Beth is working on a list of the standard contents that trail stewards can use to check their kiosks.

c. Dogs: The City Council received a complaint from a walker at Morono Park regarding a dog bite. Should there be a leash rule on city trails as there is for city parks? Dave Ross points out the difficulty of enforcing this. Rob K said that heavily used trails might need a different rule than trails that get less traffic. Jeff and Greg said keeping dogs on leashes would be good for wildlife. The Conservation Commission will discuss a possible regulation. Adding a regulation will be up to the City Council after a public hearing.

d. Membership – vacant alternate position: Scott Daniels is interested in filling this vacant position on the subcommittee. He is anxious to help with trails. He bikes, hikes and walks his dog on the trails. The subcommittee is in favor of his membership pending appointment by the Conservation Commission.

Next Meeting will be held February 10, 2021 at 5:15 on zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail R. Page

Concord Trail Committee
2021 Goals - Draft 1/13/21

1. Revise trail maps and trail guide: New edition of trail guide - target date: June 2021
2. Standardize information in trailhead kiosks: Make a list of the standard contents and have trail stewards check their kiosks regularly. Include information about the Trails Subcommittee and info about volunteering.
3. Decommissioning trails: Establish a policy and procedure to remove trails from our network and start removing unmaintained trails from our maps.
4. West End Farm Trail: Develop a new route to reconnect the north and south halves.
5. Maintain treadpath on heavily used trails: Address soil erosion, unintended widening, and downhill creep on heavily used trails (e.g., Swope).
6. Locke Road trails: Make Locke Road trails into a loop if there is a dry route to connect them. Clarify or remove the Heritage trails from the Locke trail map.
7. Bench at Swope Park: Replace the broken bench at the yellow trail outlook.
8. Bench at Broken Ground: Install a bench overlooking the beaver pond.