

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
May 12, 2021

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rik Van Riel; Judy Weatherbee; Rob Talmadge; Scott Daniels; Fran Philippe; Greg Mannesto; Kristine Tardiff and Jeff Lewis of the Conservation Commission; Ron Klemarczyk, consultant city forester

Absent: Ben Stephenson

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner and Cathy McComish, summer intern

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 of April 14, 2021 were approved as presented.
2. New Trail Updates:
 - a. Rob Knight, Fran Philippe, Scott Daniels and Ron Klemarczyk toured the proposed new trail at Locke Rd. This trail would create a loop walk where now it is an out-and-back walk along the river or a very long loop along a corn field and West Portsmouth St. Fran went over the new trail criteria for this new trail and concluded that *it links to other networks, * hikers are in favor of it, *it is easily

accessed by neighbors, *it contains some special features including blooming trout lilies in the spring, a cellar hole, an ancient car, views of the nearby wetland, *it is likely to be well used by the public, * the nearby Shaker Rd School favors the trail, *and it adds to the diversity of the city trail system.

The sub-committee voted unanimously to send this project to the conservation commission for its approval. A public hearing will follow. Fran agrees to be the project manager if it receives full approval from the city.

Scott volunteered to mow the section of the original Locke Rd. trail that borders the corn field and keep that vegetation under control.

Mileage notes are needed on the current trail map and Beth Fenstermacher will add that information when the map is updated.

Finally on W. Locke Rd Trail, there is a ditch on the river trail that is too deep for easy passing. Ron K. and Cathy M. will start shoveling dirt from the raised sides of the ditch and Scott will gather a crew to work on it. The path does not need to be completely flat, just less deep. Scott will send an email to the sub-committee if he needs more help.

b. Knowlton Woods at Oak Hill will not be opened until the parking lot is open. The parking lot permit is in process, says Beth. A bit more work is needed to finish the trails and a sub-committee work party will work on the west trail this coming Monday morning.

c. The Back Woods Trail Cart Path section at Winant Park needs a plank walk at a wet area and assistance for Ron K. to safely remove the leaning tree over the trail.

3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting: a. Rob Knight reports that all spring trail reports except one are in. He expressed his thanks for members' cooperation on this.

b. Ron K. has removed a fallen tree from the Marsh Trail at Broken Ground. A muddy area on the same trail may need a plank installed.

c. Ron and intern Cathy put up a stockade fence at Russell Martin Park to separate the trail from private property. Also filled in some muddy sections and removed blow-downs. There is evidence of rogue bike trails in this park.

d. At Knight Morono Park a tree fell onto the bridge at Clark St but someone else did the repairs. Ron and Cathy made some improvements on the work done.

e. Downed trees were removed at Jim Hill River Walk, Swope Connector and Carter Hill.

f. Ron seeded and mulched the parking lot on Currier Rd. Dead wild animals are showing up at this site as well as the Swope parking lot. This has the appearance of vandalism.

g. Ron installed a kiosk at Mast Yard. It needs the usual notices.

h. Ron reinstalled the bench at the yellow and trail vista at Swope Park after repairing its legs.

I. Ron reset the Currier Rd. kiosk to make it sturdier.

j. The US Forest Service has placed bug traps in Broken Ground as part of their wood-boring insect study.

4. Other Business:

a. Fran and Gail met a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Casey, on the Riley Trails who are doing some trail maintenance there and are interested in possibly adopting that trail system. They live adjacent to the trails.

b. Al Larson and Holly Carson are also doing voluntary trail maintenance as they use the trails. Gail and Fran gave them contact info for the sub-committee.

c. Regarding the update of the trail guide, Rob will send a message to the stewards asking if they feel changes are needed in the description or map of their trails. The history of some of the trail or system names added to the guide would add local interest.

- d. Gail shared the wording of a sign found elsewhere for reminding dog owners to take their bagged dog feces home for proper disposal. Ron recommends placing such a sign separate from the kiosk, at the start of the trail(s).
- e. General Services for the city has put up signs warning against camping and over-night parking at several locations around the city including some trail-heads.
- f. Beth asked for volunteers to clean up the W. Locke Road easement where trash was left behind from parties along the river.
- g. Invasive plants are a growing problem. Ron feels herbicides are the “best practice” for dealing with large populations. Pulling out the plants can be useful where the problem is minor. Multiflora rose is especially a problem but bittersweet and barberry need removal when possible.
- h. Fran found signs at Bow's Walker Forest that delineate private property and responsible use. She recommends them to this committee.
- I. Beth announced that in-person meetings will not be happening for city committees until at least August.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25. Next meeting is June 9th at 5:15 PM via zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail R. Page, recording secretary

