

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021

Attending: Chairperson Rob Knight; Secretary Gail Page; Rob Talmadge; Fran Philippe; Judy Weatherbee; Greg Mannesto; Vice Chairperson Scott Daniels; alternate David Ross; Conservation Commission representative, Jeff Lewis

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner; and, Melina Caron, Trails & Open Space Ranger

Absent: alternates, Ben Stephenson, and Rik Van Riel, and consulting forester, Ron Klemarczyk

Guests: Rebecca Ross and Martin Janoschek

Agenda:

1. Minutes for September 8, 2021 were approved.
2. The newly hired part-time Trails and Open Space Ranger, Melina Caron was introduced to the sub-committee and welcomed. Beth Fenstermacher explained Mel's duties and Mel described her background and qualifications. She will work 20 hours approximately 4 hours/day, 5 days/week including weekends. She is an employee of the city planning division; therefore communication with her should include Beth Fenstermacher. When emailing Beth about a ranger matter, send a cc to Mel. Likewise, emails to Ron Klemarczyk should be cc'd to Beth.
3. Trail Guide Update:
 - Returning to Map 3, O'Reilly Fleetham Trail, there are questions concerning the blazing, i.e. is there enough, and should the snowmobile trail have hiking blazing on it. The snowmobile trail is not an official hiking trail but it is used by hikers to make a shorter loop. Steward David Ross will recheck the blazing.
 - Map 5, Contoocook River Park: members consider it accurate.
 - Map 6, Rolf Park: No changes or concerns
 - Map 7, Spears Park: Map is deemed accurate. An adjoining trail system beyond the powerline in Richards Forest is not currently maintained for public use; however, it is City Forest land. Beth mentioned there are several issues that need to be addressed prior to formalizing a trail system.
 - Map 8, Riley Trails: the map is accurate but the description includes reference to a handicap accessible trail to the viewing platform at Hoit Pond. Members agreed this trail is not usable by a wheelchair-bound person and this sentence should be removed as well as the wheelchair access sign.
 - Map 9, Carter Hill Orchard: Fran rewrote the description of these trails and has not yet received feedback from the Orchard owners. She removed information on the map about which apples are grown along the trail. Numbered signs are still in place in the orchard. The description needs to caution users against biking on the Carter Hill Connector that leads toward the Ross and Raymond private properties. The Raymond property has a new gate and a sign prohibiting biking on that property. New metal signs will be ordered and installed by the trail steward or the ranger. In addition, a kiosk is to be installed at the intersection of the WEFT and Carter Hill Connector.
4. New Trail Updates:
 - Locke Rd/Trout Lily trail. Creation of the new Trout Lily Trail is complete and is getting good use. After the first day of trail work, Scott brought his weedwacker to cut the ferns that cover the trail. The unsightly old gate and cement base at the trail head is moved and covered with brush thanks to Ron Klemarczyk and Cathy, the summer intern. The two entrances are now clear.
 - Back Woods Trail-cart path: The change in blaze color decided last month will be done soon.
 - Bench at Broken Ground: Discussion on this lead to a change in proposed location for the bench from the west side to the east side of the beaver pond, not far from the road. Concerns exist about too many people being near the pond and causing disturbance to its' wildlife. Currently many people are watching beaver and herons from the road; some have been seen offering food to the beaver. The

members raised the possibility of an informative sign to discourage this behavior. Gail reported that the bench being proposed seats only 2-3 persons, thus not inviting many to linger. The bench proposal will be taken up this evening at the Conservation Commission and an okay from Fish and Game would be desirable.

5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

Forestry intern Cathy McComish and Forester Ron Klemarczyk removed deadfalls from the Jim Hill Riverwalk and installed a new culvert there. They also replaced decking on the boardwalk bridge. At the new Trout Lily trail system, plank walks and temporary directional signs are in place. Fran and others raked and blazed the new trail. The original riverwalk trail goes too close to the eroding riverbank and so a new bypass avoids this hazard. Ron and Cathy and Scott filled in the drainage ditch that cut across this trail. Ron removed a downed tree at Lehtinen Park and cut back brush from the Winant Park trailhead. Swope Park's blue trail received landscape timbers at cut-and-fill sites to handle erosion. Ron and Cathy removed a downed tree from the Orange/Blue trail at this same system as well as a new waterbar near the kiosk to prevent rainwater from running down the Blue trail into to parking lot. Oak Hill's Tower trail received a new plastic culvert to replace a rotten one. Ron notes in his written report that due to the wet weather, watersealing had to be delayed at all the bridges. *He asks for volunteer help to get this done before winter.*

6. Trails Chairperson -

The Trails chairperson's position is ending for Rob as of December 31, 2021, necessitating a new chairperson for the following 3 years. The subcommittee will vote on his successor at the December meeting. Anyone interested in taking this position should indicate this to Rob and Beth.

7. Other Business:

- a. The building debris along the water tower road at Broken Ground remains. Beth has informed the water department of this problem.
- b. Rob Knight will send out email requests for trail stewards to complete a fall trail check and return the form to him when it is done. Stewards should note any problems needing extra help to remedy. The form needs some additional follow-up questions. Rob will revise it. Perhaps contacting stewards and getting their reports could become one of Mel's tasks. Guest Rebecca Ross suggests that the form include a question on whether rogue trails and ATV use are evident. Others suggest adding questions on the condition of plank walks and bridges and the condition of kiosks.
- c. Mel's help in coordinating volunteer projects would be welcome.
- d. Beth suggests semi-annual trash pick-up days for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm. The next meeting will be on November 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary