

Concord Conservation Commission  
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021  
Council Chambers, 37 Green Street

Attending: Chairperson Rob Knight; Secretary, Gail Page; Rob Talmadge; Fran Philippe; Judy Weatherbee; and Vice Chair Scott Daniels  
City Planning Division Staff: Beth Fenstermacher and Mel Caron  
Conservation Commission representative, Jeff Lewis  
Consulting forester, Ron Klemarczyk  
Absent: Alternates Ben Stephenson, and Rik Van Riel  
Guests: Rebecca Ross

Agenda:

Chairperson Rob Knight began the meeting reading quotes from a positive Concord Monitor article about the newly hired trail ranger, Mel Caron. He noted that the article also gave appreciation for Concord's extensive trail network and its maintenance.

1. Minutes for October 2021 were approved.

2. Trail Guide Update:

Resuming our review of the trail guide that started with the September 2021 meeting, we looked at map #10, Sewalls Falls. This trail is on state property and the state is responsible for it but we include it in the guide. An upland trail, parallel to the other, is unclear if it is an official trail, Beth and Mel will look into it. Change to the description of the dam site and call it "dam remnants", rather than a dam since it is breached. Another change is adding the trail connection that goes under the bridge to the trail north of the road. The text refers to other maps but the map numbers need to be corrected. We will also change the photo in the text.

Map 11, Morono Park: The description includes a "mowed path" on the edge of a field but the mowing isn't happening. We will check with Greg Mannesto about whether to continue to include this, and Mel will visit the site to determine the current condition. Ron Klemarczyk notes that there are some unofficial paths into the abutting neighborhoods that could be made official.

Map 12 Oak Hill and Knowlton Woods: The new Knowlton Woods trails need to be added to the text. We decided not to change the description of the trails' difficulty for now but Mel will ask hikers if they are using phone maps or paper ones and how they would describe the difficulty of the trails. Judy Weatherbee notes that some signs are in rough condition. New metal ones are on order and some have been installed.

Map 13 Merrill Park: The map needs correction on the portion east of the pond as well as better markings for returning to Portsmouth St. We will add the Forest Society's parking lot to the map as this is nearest the trailhead. This trail system needs a steward.

Map 14 Batchelder Mill Trails: We will remove the spur trail that leads to a privately owned field. The sub-committee notes that this system is no longer handicapped accessible and that should be removed from the description for now.

3. New Trail Updates:

- Back Woods Trail-cart path: The orange blaze color is completed.
- Bench at Broken Ground: a vote in support of installing a bench near the beaver pond resulted in it being forwarded to the Conservation Commission for their approval.

4. Trail Maintenance and Reporting: On 11/20/21 the subcommittee will sponsor trailhead cleanup and invite the community to participate. Blue bags will be distributed to volunteers. Beth will send an email to our email list of volunteers and put it on the city's website.

- Rob Knight stated that 16 of 31 trail stewards have completed their fall trail checks and reported in. He will send out another reminder.

- Rob, Scott, Chris Hallowell, Mel and Fran cleaned up an elaborate camp-site within Bachelder Mill trail system.

- Beth announced that parking lots at Oak Hill, Swope and Winant have been improved by the city crews, by filling potholes and smoothing the surface.

-Ron is overseeing the timber sale on the Leadbeater property and watershed land on District No. 5 Road.

-Ron has installed a kiosk at the entrance to Ross View Farm from Carter Hill Orchards.

-He has removed brush from the O'Reilly-Fleetham trail and rounded a sharp corner in the trail.

-A new sign for the Trout Lily Trail on Locke Rd is in place.

5. Mel has created an Instagram site for the city trails.

6. AARP is replacing the signs it installed at Riley and Batchelder to include their new logo. Beth will ask volunteers to replace the signs once they are received.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Page, recording secretary

**Next meeting is December 8 at 5:15 in the City Council Chambers**