

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021

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

Agenda:

1. Minutes for November 2021 were approved.
2. Trail Guide Update:
 - East Sugarball Road Trail: This trail will be added to the Broken Ground trail network.
 - Turkey River/White Farm Winter Trails: Remove this trail from the list of hiking trails and move it to a new section for winter trails in the back of the guide, along with Beaver Meadow's XC trails, where it will be noted that they are winter trails only. Also, add a note regarding Carter Hill Orchard XC ski trails
 - Upton Morgan State Forest: Change the text by removing references to interpretive points as they are no longer in place. Remove the tree descriptions, improve the trail description and keep the first and last sentences as they are.
 - Healy and Terrill Park Trails: Healy remains a homeless camp location and so is closed. The Conservation Commission does not want to remove it from the trail network at this time. Terrill Park will become part of the Merrimack River Greenway and included on that map. Hikers are using the MRG dirt road along the corn fields behind the post office. The text descriptions are unchanged.
 - East Concord Heritage Trails: No changes except to revise Trout Lily Path to Trout Lily Trail.
3. New Trail Updates:
 - a. Bench at Broken Ground: Following last month's sub-committee's vote to support the idea of a bench at the Broken Ground beaver pond, the Conservation Commission also gave its consent. Gail will resume contact with the boy scout troop that has volunteered to build the bench, and recommend they use pressure treated wood. Gail will provide the funds for this bench as a gift to the city. Securing it from theft will require some heavy chains. Gail will ask the troop about whether they will install the bench. If not, trail volunteers will assist with the installation.
4. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
 - a. Rob reported that the fall trail check by stewards is complete with the exception of Terrill Park and Walkers Reserve. Terrill Park is actually the Recreation Department's responsibility.
 - b. On 11/20/21, Beth and Mel organized a trailhead cleanup and invited the community to participate. Thirty bags of trash were collected from the trails at Broken Ground, Morono Park, Batchelder Mill, Contoocook River Park, Weir trails, and Swope Park. There was good participation by the public. The sub-committee decided this will become a semi-annual event. In light of the amount of trash collected, the chairperson will remind trail stewards that this chore is part of their duties.
 - c. Ron Klemarczyk sent a report on his activities as follows: He removed a downed tree on Riley

Trail, reinstalled the Winant Park/St Paul's School informational sign and cut some branches from oaks that were starting to hide the view at the Winant-Mt Monadnock vista, replaced the plexiglass on the kiosk at Knight/Morono Park and created a way to open it from the back. Ron notes that someone(s) picked up 3 bags of trash along Second St near this kiosk. Logging at Leadbeater property on Dist. 5 Rd continues. Hemlock wooly adelgid now is in this area, necessitating removal of more mature hemlocks.

5. Year in Review - Progress on 2021 Goals was reviewed:

1. Guide revision is coming along well, although a more realistic target completion date is June 2022.
2. Kiosk standardization and updating is finished. Beth will again circulate the list of standard contents.
3. Policy for decommissioning trails. Rob has been lax on this, but will work on it soon.
4. Reconnecting the two parts of the West End Farm Trail is held up pending a meeting between the city and the Rosses to agree on a satisfactory re-route.
5. Maintaining tread-paths has been an on-going project at Swope Park for Ron Klemarczyk and interns.
6. At the Locke Road trails, we have completed the proposed loop (Trout Lily Trail). The Heritage Trail remains on the map, but now has a dashed trail symbol and the trail guide indicates that it is on roads.
7. The bench at Swope Park has been repaired and reinstalled at the yellow trail outlook.
8. A bench at Broken Ground is in process.
9. Fran is still working on tracking down the history of the persons for whom trails have been named.
10. A permanent informational sign where trails cross private property is not complete. The language has been determined, Beth will work on ordering those signs.

6. Membership renewal and Election of Officers:

Fran Philippe, Rob Knight and David Ross are up for renewal for the coming 3 years. Fran and Rob indicated their willingness to continue, David was not present, but will be contacted by Beth. For chairperson, Fran and Judy nominated Scott Daniels, who accepted and was elected by unanimous vote. For vice-chair, Fran agreed to fill that position and she was affirmed by the sub-committee.

Gail accepted the nomination by Greg and Judy for recording secretary and received confirmation from the sub-committee.

7. Other Business: Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission representative expressed the Commission's praise and thanks for Rob Knight's years of service as chairperson of this sub-committee. Members of the subcommittee echoed those words of appreciation. Jeff recommended that some duties of the chairperson be shared more by membership. Rob said that he would be willing to help Scott whenever asked. After discussion of how committee members can help, Judy and Fran agreed to take on the task of sorting what signs are needed and ordering them, relieving Beth of that chore. They will ask Mel to make a list of signs that are currently needed

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Page, recording secretary

Next meeting is January 12, 2022 at 5:15 in the City Council Chambers