

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

Attending: Chairperson Scott Daniels; Vice Chair, Fran Philippe; Secretary, Gail Page; Judy Weatherbee; Rob Knight; Rob Talmadge; David Ross (alt)
City Planning Div. representative, Beth Fenstermacher; Ranger, Mel Caron; Consulting Forester, Ron Klemarczyk
Conservation Commission representative, Jeff Lewis
Absent: Greg Mannesto, and alternate Rik Van Riel
Guests: Rebecca Ross; Mark Redman

Agenda:

1. Minutes for January 2022 were approved following a correction at #4, b. removing the name "Leadbeater".
2. 2022 Goal setting:
Scott shared the new list of goals and projects. The goals and projects are set forth below in Appendix A. Some goals and projects are interchangeable, e.g. re-creation of an ADA trail could be a goal rather than a project but the content of the two lists are confirmed for 2022. Goals are broader ideas that require further planning and coordination, while projects are more "shovel ready" tasks that can be accomplished in the near-term.

We discussed the goal of maintaining connections with the trail stewards and determined that this can be done in three ways, 1. by bringing all of them/us together twice/year at the subcommittee meetings in the month following the spring and fall clean-ups to share any concerns they have about their trails and 2. by asking them to participate in the monthly public hikes the subcommittee leads, particularly if it is on their trail. The 3rd way to include stewards is to hold annually a "thank you" gathering of subcommittee and stewards for a hike/snowshoe followed by refreshments. Scott will email the stewards about spring trail checks and invite them to following month meeting. Costs for refreshments at the gatherings will be covered by donations. Stewards Mark and Marie Redman offered their home as the location for a future event.

Fran Philippe, Rob Knight, Scott Daniels and Gail Page volunteered to lead monthly hikes for the public on Concord's trails as we did pre-pandemic. When possible, leaders might invite various experts on the hikes to provide added points of interest along the way. Leaders should also invite the trail steward(s) for the trail chosen. We are reminded to always appoint or invite someone to "sweep" at the back of the line of hikers for safety.

*On April 23, Fran will lead a hike at Knowlton Woods

*In May, Rob K will lead a hike

*In June, Gail will lead a hike on "National Trails Day" June 4th, possibly in the early evening

*Scott will lead a hike in July

Additional hikes will be scheduled at future meetings.

Fran's goal of providing informational signage on local history surrounding the trails continues. The NH Historical Society's James Spain might be a source of local lore for this goal.

Ranger Mel will organize one/month work parties on the trails. The first one will be removing the pine mat creeping onto the paved East Sugarball Trail. Date set for this is April 7 at 5 PM.

Rob Knight will work on the document for decommissioning of trails no longer being maintained by the subcommittee.

3. Other Business:

Stewards that still have signs for Muddy Trail Etiquette should erect signs at trail heads. Mel will follow up with stewards to determine which trails are covered, and will hang up signs at all other trails.

4. Ron Klemarczyk has cut and removed downed trees on the trails at the Riley lot and from the Swope-Winant Connector trail and the Swope-West End Farm Connector trail.

He also painted some boundary lines in the area of the Swope-West End Farm Connector trail using red paint and blue paint, with the blue paint marking the Rossvie Farm Conservation Easement boundary line. In addition, he painted boundary lines along the West End Farm Trail on the north side of Currier Road with red paint.

The kiosk at the West Locke Road trail was struck by a vehicle and knocked over. He removed it, but will reinstall it in the Spring after the ground has thawed.

Lastly, he refastened the Interpretive Signs at the Riley Lot and replaced two of them.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is April 13, 2022 at 5:15 in the Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,
Gail R. Page, recording secretary

Appendix A

Trail Subcommittee 2022 Goals

- Annual meeting/appreciation with trail stewards (at Conservation properties)
- Invite trail stewards to spring/fall report follow up meeting (May 11th, November 9th)
- Resume community hikes. Include Trail Stewards, or professionals.
 - Leaders: Fran (April 23rd, Earth Day hike, Knowlton Woods - 10 am); Rob K. (May); Gail (June 4th - National Trails day); Scott (July, Broken Ground)
- Put up historical signage on trails
- 1x month work parties on a regular schedule (Mel to organize)
- Procedure for decommissioning trails - Rob
- Identify trail network connections
- Get at least one trail ADA compliant- Mel

Projects

- Historic signs: old winter recreation area on Carter Hill Connector trail, Oak Hill, cellar holes noting inhabitants and dates
- Remove invasives and plant native seedlings at a trail entrance - Mel
- Cut back bittersweet from trees across from Curtisville parking lot - Fran
- Swope Park - Control trail widening and erosion.
- Winant Park - White Trail - Improve drainage, control trail width
- Connect River trail through to Sewalls Falls.
- Connect Broken Ground to Oak Hill

Designate a trail within the system to be a “nature knowledge” trail with flora ID tags. - Gail and ?