

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022

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

Agenda:

1. Minutes for March 2022 were approved.
2. 2022 Goals and Projects follow-up:
 - a. Locke Rd to Sewalls Falls connector
Scott will explore what is needed to bring about an extension of the trail off W. Locke Rd to meet Sewalls Falls Road. Greg and Mel volunteered to work with him on this. Privately owned land stands in the most favored path. The volunteers will explore this owner's openness to a trail on his land and see what natural obstacles need to be overcome for trail-building.
 - b. Rob Knight shared his draft of procedures to permanently closing a trail. Reasons might include safety issues, changes in terrain, wildlife preservation, lack of public use and others. The sub-committee approved the procedures with one change. The draft will go to the Conservation Commission for their review. (See draft attached)
3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
 - Several sub-committee members will meet at the East Sugarball trail for a clean-up of pine needle mats that are narrowing this paved path. This work is scheduled for April 14th from 5 – 7 PM.
 - Ron and Mel have removed downed trees at Rolinda Ave/Russell Martin trails, Winant Park, Swope Park, Broken Ground and Riley Trails. At Russell Martin, a constantly muddy section may need an application of gravel. They have also stabilized a plank walk on the Swope-Winant connector. Signs informing hikers of muddy trail etiquette are installed in the kiosks.
 - Mel has created 3 signs for the trails. One educating users on the danger of dog waste to the environment, another that gives the “do’s and don’ts” of dogs on trails with recommendations for the safety of other hikers, and a third sign discouraging use of a rogue trail on the watershed to Penacook Lake, Concord's drinking water source. She also created a document with standard definitions for ranking of trail difficulty.
4. Other business:
 - a. Riley Trails relocation – Beth reported that she received notification from NH Fish and Game that a portion of the trail crosses on to their property, and either needs to be closed or relocated on to City property. Ron reported that this trail was in existence prior to City ownership, and was created by fisherpersons accessing the shore from the F&G parking lot on Hoit Pond. Ron Klemarczyk is considering how to adjust the city trail to assure it is not used to access the shore.

NHF&G also indicated that a license agreement to maintain the viewing platform on the pond shore is required. Beth was able to find records indicating that it was allowed and built with funds and under the direction of F&G many years ago. With this understanding, NHF&G will still require a license agreement.

- b. Mel has set up an Earth Day trail clean-up. Sites included are Contoocook River Park, Locke Rd., and Swope Park. Gail will assist with handing out blue bags. Mel has advertised this project on the city website to get volunteers from the public as she did in the fall.
- c. An Earth Day hike is set for Knowlton Woods, led by Fran. Rob plans to lead a hike at Contoocook River Park on May 21 starting at 9:30 and Gail will choose a trail for her hike on Trails Day, June 4th. *All hike leaders are reminded to have a "sweep" at the back of the group.*
- d. Erin Waters, a guest at tonight's meeting, is interested in becoming an alternate member of the sub-committee. She is well acquainted with Concord and its trails, having been a resident of Concord most of her life. The sub-committee welcomes her and asks that her membership be approved by the Conservation Commission.

Next meeting will take place on May 11th at 5:15 pm in the Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,
Gail R. Page, recording secretary