

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2022

Present: Chairperson Scott Daniels; Vice Chair, Fran Philippe; Judy Weatherbee; Rob Talmadge;
Greg Mannesto: Alternate, Rik Van Riel
City staff: Beth Fenstermacher and Carl Matson
Consultant City Forester, Ron Klemarczyk
Conservation Commission representative, Jeff Lewis

Absent: Secretary, Gail Page; Rob Knight; and alternate Erin Waters

Guests: Ward 5 Councilor, Stacey Brown; Rebecca Ross, Rossview Farm

Agenda:

1. June 8, 2022 minutes approved as written.
2. Carl Matson, newly hired Trails and Open Space Ranger was introduced. Past experiences have included being a naturalist at the Balsams, affiliation with Fish and Game doing programs in schools, with the Corps of Engineers at Elm Brook and 23 years at the State Prison.
3. Trail maintenance and Reporting by Ron K:
 - a. Jim Hill River Walk – bridge decking replaced; 90-ft bridge will be replaced this fall; erosion from rope swing up from Daisy Beach - trail will be rerouted; brushing done; cleaned up a lot of trash around the beach. A work day is planned for Tuesday, August 30 from 9 - 12; rain date the 31st.
 - b. Winant Park - took care of two downed trees; replaced decking on a bridge.
 - c. Carter Hill - a hemlock cut.
 - d. West End Farm Trail - an ATV trail was followed to a residence. Fish and Game will follow up.
 - e. Knight-Morono trails - two trees were reported down. The city took one down by Clark St, but the one by Second St is not safe to cut. The erosion problem was taken care of.
 - f. Swope Park - brush cut.
4. Broken Ground to Oak Hill trail
 - a. An exploratory walk was taken by Ron Klemarczyk, Scott Daniels, Matt Bowser, Jim Owers and Erin Waters. A good part of it is currently a trail being used by ATVs and snowmobiles. Land owners need to be contacted for permission to cross their land, or reroute it to avoid private land. Ron suggested getting permanent easements to avoid

conflict with new land-owners. One scenario would have the trail come out in Loudon to get close to the fire-tower road, which would involve easements from Loudon property owners as well. A revised route was suggested to avoid some private lands. After much discussion, it was decided to consult the Conservation Commission, using the trail criteria guide. If there was interest, Hoag and Ekstrom land owners would be contacted. If they agree with easements, then Loudon owners would be contacted. It was suggested that because of the total distance, the trail would most likely be used by mountain bikers and that NEMBA would help with the construction.

- b. Ron will look up information gathered in the past about original European residents in and around the Broken Ground trails and other trail areas for historical signage.
- c. Beth reported on the invasives workshop held at Merrill Park. The information gathered will be passed on, using the pines between the Broken Ground Nowell Trail and the beaver pond.
- d. Trail closure procedure - Jeff said the Conservation Commission would like to see a checklist similar to the one to create a new trail, along with the criteria. Rob Knight will continue with this in September.

4. Other Business:

- a. Group Hikes: Scott Daniels reported on the hike he led at Contoocook River Park. He had approximately 20 hikers. Fran will lead the August hike on the 13th at Winant Park to the Back Woods Trail.
- b. Beth reported that Parks and Recreation and Concord Public Library are sponsoring adult book club guided hikes to Swope Park in September and October. The book, *Rooted*, will be discussed at the overlook in September.
- d. Councilor Brown reported that on October 20th, the Central NH Biking Coalition is sponsoring a city movie night at Red River Theatres. There will be an event on September 16th - Walk With a Cop - from Langley Parkway to Auburn St, to show how accessible trails are. Councilor Brown is working with Concord TV to make a mountain biking video and videos can be submitted to Concord TV before September 29th. Scott is contacting mountain bikers to submit video.
- e. Rob Talmadge reminded the group that hunting seasons begin on September 1st.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: September 14, 2022 at 5:15 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Philippe, Secretary pro tem