

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023

Present: Fran Philippe, Vice Chair; Greg Mannesto; Gail Page; Rebecca Ross; Rik Van Riel (alt); Aaron Monier (alt); Kristine Tardiff, Conservation Commission Chair (Acting Trails Subcommittee Chair); Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Liaison; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant City Forester; City Planning Division staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Carl Matson
Absent: Erin Waters(alt)

Visitors: Mark Redman (Trail Stewart)

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Ms. Tardiff, Acting Chair

1. Minutes for February 8, 2023 were approved (no March meeting)
2. Discuss trails subcommittee moving forward

Kris started the discussion by reporting the resignation of several members of the committee, and that the Commission is considering whether to change the structure of the subcommittee, reduce the number of meetings, etc., or if members felt it was working well as is. She asked for feedback from members. Overall, members felt the monthly meetings were important for keeping the communication going, and addressing issues that come up as trail use continues to increase. Some members were supportive of reducing the number of meetings, and leaving the option open to cancel meetings if there isn't much going on. There was discussion about keeping volunteers actively involved and focusing on maintaining the quality of trails. Also, continue to add "new" faces around the table.

Regarding the Chair position, members expressed concern about the workload of the chair, and how this is perhaps self-imposed by previous chairs. Discussion about spreading the workload to other members. Rik offered to take on spring/fall trail checks. Kris mentioned the option of appointing the Conservation Commission liaison as chair. Fran offered to be Acting Chair for next month's meeting.

3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting
 - a. City Forester report: Fallen trees were cleared at Carter Hill Connector, Merrill Park, Winant Park, Contoocook River Park. The bridge on Carter Hill connector south of District 5 Road will need to be replaced, he stabilized it so it is useable for now. He also replaced boards on bridges at Winant Park. He spread ledge pack in the expanded part of Swope Parking lot that was dug up by plows over the winter, and seeded the slopes/berm in this area. He reported a rogue trail off Long Pond Road, he'll cover it up with brush to close it.
 - b. Carl Matson report: Carl returned last week for the season. He removed down trees on Locke Road trails, reported potential flooding on access road due to blocked culvert. Trees cleared at Spears park, Batchelder Mill trails, O'Reilly Fleetham trails. He also checked kiosks for signage that needs to be replaced and reported remnants of a homeless camp at Russell Martin Park that need to be cleaned up. He suggested an upcoming volunteer project to repaint the trailhead signs.
 - c. Fran and Gail reported bridges at Broken Ground need to be repainted.

4. New trail proposal – Richards Community Forest

A late April/early May site walk will be scheduled for the proposed trail loop on the Richards Community Forest, accessed through the Spears Park trails. This will be the first phase in formalizing the trails. Staff and members of the Conservation Commission have met with the family who are very interested in seeing the trails developed to meet their father's wishes for the property.

5. Follow up items

- a. Broken Ground NEMBA trail – discussion postponed to future meeting
- b. Broken Ground – Oak Hill connector trail - discussion postponed to future meeting

6. Other business:

- a. Spring trail checks – Rik offered to coordinate Spring trail checks. Beth will send him contact information and the trail check form. Rik will organize findings into a spreadsheet to be shared with the subcommittee and Conservation Commission.
- b. Beth reminder members of upcoming training: Right-to-know and How to Conduct a Public Meeting training – 5/9, 5:30 pm, City Auditorium (2 Prince Street)

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Fenstermacher