

Concord Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee Meeting

August 9, 2023 5:15 P.M.

City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 41 Green St.

Members:

Fran Philippe (Chair), Gail Page, Ron Klemarczyk (Consultant City Forester), Rebecca Ross, Aaron Monier (Secretary), Heather Shank (City Planner)

Guests: Mark Cheever, Beth Fenstermacher

Minutes:

- Meeting started with cupcakes for Beth's service to the trail subcommittee.
- Motion to nominate Mark Cheever to the Trails Subcommittee. He will send Heather his resume to be considered by the Conservation Committee.
- Approve Minutes from July. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ron's Notes:
 - Walked the proposed NEMBA/Broken Ground Trail site with wildlife specialist Matthew Tarr of the UNH Cooperative Extension and Matt Bowser of NEMBA.
 - Near the intersection of Marsh Loop Trail area of concern for wildlife. Specifically turtles nesting area and rock out crops that snakes use to sun and as a hibernaculum.
 - Exposed soil can create corridor for nesting turtles and sunning snakes.
 - Ron has arranged for Fish and Game to look more specifically at the area of concern.
 - Matthew Tarr recommended a master plan for the area with designated wildlife sections and designated recreation areas.
 - Richards Community Forest: Access Rd. sign moved. Ron flagged the area in SE corner.
 - Carl has continued the project of cleaning up trailhead areas with light landscaping and kiosk renovations. He has located some abandoned unhoused camp.
- Spring Trails Check
 - Email sent out to trail stewards with minimal response. Fran suggested that we send the email from an official city of Concord email address, so it doesn't get missed.
 - Broken Ground Bittersweet. Email response was minimal. Mark said he could scout the area and start clearing the bittersweet and will report back.
 - Before berries bloom is generally considered best practice.
 - Batcheldor Mills Cleanup Day: Clear back overgrowth on trails. Fran suggested we discuss a date that works best. Weekends are tough for most people, so we tentatively looked at September 25th at 5:00 PM. Sunset is around 6:30 PM so headlamps may be necessary.

- Group Hike in September: Carl has volunteered but not sure which trail.
- Closing Thoughts: Fran wanted the subcommittee to be thinking about a location for a wheelchair accessible trail in Concord. She thinks it would be a good statement to make for the City. It was suggested that we look at some of the other wheelchair accessible trails to get a scope of the project.