

Concord Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee Meeting
October 11th, 2023
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 41 Green St.

Present: Fran Philippe (Vice-Chair), Ron Klemarczyk (Consultant City Forester), Heather Shank (City Planner), Carl Matson (Trail Ranger), Aaron Monier (Secretary), Gail Page, Rebecca Ross, Rik Van Riel (alt.), Jim Owers (Conservation Commission Liaison),

Absent: Mark Cheever

Guests: Jim Oehler, NHFG. Havenwood Heritage Heights Hiking Club Members; Bob Heigis, Don Hayes, Jane Heigis, Jane Anderson, Valmere Mclean

1. Approved meeting minutes from September 13. Noted that minutes can be found on the city's website.
2. Proposed Trails: Subcommittee will wait to vote after public input for proposed Broken Ground NEMBA Trail.
 - a. Rik thinks it would be a good idea to have traffic split in ascending and descending directions in the last section of new proposed trail because of potential safety hazards of hikers and bikers. Jim Owers asked him to put it in writing so he could bring it to the Conservation Committee.
 - b. Ron reported that the effected oaks in the area will be cut in late fall.
3. Ron's Trail Maintenance Report: Oak Salvage from trees impacted by Spongy Moth infestation on Bunton Lot off Exit 3 of I89.
4. Carl's Trail Maintenance Report: He accompanied Ron on water diversion projects. Installed plastic water culvert at Oak Hill and timber water bars at Marjory Swope Park to promote better drainage.
 - a. He spent time at Broken Ground Batcheldor Mills clearing back brush and staining the observation platform. Cleared a clogged culvert with a pick axe and spade.
 - b. Knowlton Woods; Weed wacked overgrowth
 - c. Jim Hill River Walk; removed downed trees and weed whacked overgrowth

- d. Fran noted that the paint is wearing off on the bridges on the trail on the west side of the Broken Ground Pond Loop covering the graffiti. Carl is aware and plans on repainting.
 - e. Carl removed mattress and boxspring from unhoued camp at Locke Rd.
 - f. Marsh Loop Trail – Somebody dumped a mattress and boxspring that Carl brought to the dump on the city account.
5. Rik has updated the Trail Stewards list. There are some opportunities for trail stewards at Morono Park, Upton Morgan State Forest, and Russell Martin Park. Merrill Park was noted as not being on the list.
- a. Rebecca Ross asked if the Trails Subcommittee has guidelines and expectations for trail stewards in a document that the Trails Subcommittee could look at and review. It will be revived, put on the city website and sent to trail stewards.
 - b. Aaron mentioned that every year he's observed leaf blowing at John Winant Park trails. This practice is unanimously discouraged by the Committee because it promotes erosion and is disturbing to the peace.
6. Other Business:
- a. Fran asked the committee if anybody would be willing to project manage having an ADA compliant trail in the Concord network. Although not present, the committee thought that Mark Cheever would be a great fit because of his work with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Fran will ask him. Rebecca Ross thinks it would be beneficial for somebody from the US Forest Service or another agency to give a presentation to the committee on ADA accessible trails so we have a better understanding of the depth of this project. Fran asked Rebecca if she would be willing to work with Mark C. to see that this happens, and she obliged. Jim Owers brought up that there are multiple areas, including Contoocook River Park, Merrimack River Greenway Trail that may meet ADA requirements.
 - b. Batchelder Mill Cleanup Day was a success with participation from four Trails Committee members and two from the community.
 - c. September group hike had good participation. Attendants noted Frans knowledge of flora (specifically ferns) was very impressive. Fran will organize the next group hike October, 28th at the Howard C. Nowell Trail (Broken Ground Blue Loop) at 10:00 AM. Carl volunteered to run the November hike. Previously, there was a sign-in sheet with emails so we could notify former attendants of upcoming hikes. This will be reinstated with the newly hired Assistant Planner.
 - d. There are two vacancies for Trails Subcommittee members and two alternate spots available.
7. The next meeting : Wednesday, November 8.

8. The meeting was adjourned to the Conservation Commission Meeting for some to be in attendance for Jim Oehler's report on the effect of trails on wildlife and for the public input regarding the proposed NEMBA trail in the Broken Ground.