

Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee

June 12, 2024

City Hall, 2nd Fl Conference Rm, 41 Green St

Present: Andrew Gould, Gail Page, Chair Fran Philippe, Rebecca Ross, Judy Weatherbee. Staff Trails Ranger Carl Matson, Acting City Planner AnneMarie Skinner

Absent: Vice-Chair Mark Cheever, Secretary Aaron Monier, Rik van Riel

Guests: Conservation Commission Liaison Jeff Lewis

1. Meeting called to order at 5:16 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes April 10, 2024
Several typos were noted. Rebecca Ross moved, Gail Page seconded to approve minutes, with the noted corrections. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
3. New Trail Proposal for northerly bypass at discontinued District 5 Rd
This item was continued to July 10, 2024, when Kris Tardiff will be present to discuss.
4. Trails Maintenance and Reporting
Ms. Skinner read the written report provided in the agenda packet from Ron Klemarczyk.

Carl Matson was present to discuss his activities over the past month in trails maintenance, including removing stickers from the Winant Park gate and removing blowdowns, trash, and invasive species from multiple trails. Mr. Matson met with Michael Cunningham about being a trail steward. Mr. Matson also met with the land abutter at Jim Hill Riverwalk trails to discuss the management of the large field, specifically the frequency of it being mowed. The Trails Subcommittee confirmed that mowing or partial mowing is scheduled at three-year intervals.

Mr. Matson noted the bench in the Marjorie Swope Park has been removed and it appears installation of the new bench for Bagel Works is in progress, including the pouring of a concrete slab. The old bench is in the parking lot. Chair Philippe reminded the group that a bench was approved for placement. Jeff Lewis will discuss it with Conservation Commission tonight and update the Trails Subcommittee at the July meeting.

5. Review Documents
 - a. Finalize 2024 Goals

The draft Goals were adopted as written.

The group then discussed progress on each of the goals.

Goal 1 – Chair Philippe noted the recent invasive species workshop. She will email the pamphlet handout link to AnneMarie Skinner who will then email it to the group and the trail stewards.

Goal 2 – Chair Philippe will discuss with Rik van Riel contacting the trail stewards.

Goal 3 – A discussion on guided hikes will take place at the next meeting.

Goal 4 – The current trail guide reflects the most recent updates.

Goal 5 – Chair Philippe will contact Rob Knight about continuing with the winter recreation and interpretive signs.

Goal 6 – Rebecca Ross will coordinate with Mark Cheever regarding selecting the candidates for the most appropriate all-persons trails. The all-persons sign at Riley Trails needs to be removed and Carl Matson will remove the sign, with the group noting the Riley trails haven't been maintained enough to be utilized or signed as all-persons trails.

6. Review Documents

Procedure for Approving a New Trail or Trail Network (work continued from previous meeting)

- Discussion took place on the wording of the opening note and number one.
- A number 13 was added that the Trails Subcommittee will add new trails to the online maps and the trail description to the trails guide.
- Chair Philippe moved, Andrew Gould seconded, to approve the changes to the Procedure for Approving a New Trail or Trail Network. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

New Trails Criteria

- Added a new bullet about making trails available for all trail user groups.
- Rebecca Ross moved, seconded by Judy Barrett Weatherbee, to approve the changes to the New Trails Criteria. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Trail Closing Criteria

- Changed the title to be consistent with the title of the New Trails Criteria title
- Rebecca Ross moved, seconded by Judy Barrett Weatherbee, to approve the changes to the Trails Closing Criteria. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Procedure for Discontinuing a Trail

- Rebecca Ross moved, seconded by Andrew Gould, to approve the draft document for procedures for discontinuing a trail. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjourn

Unanimously approved to adjourn meeting at 6:44 p.m. Mover and seconder not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Gould