

Trails Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes 12/11/2024

Trails subcommittee members present: Chair Fran Philippe, Rik van Riel, Rebecca Ross, Andrew Gould, Vice Chair Mark Cheever, Jeff Lewis (Trails subcommittee liaison for Conservation Commission)

Guests: Nick Holmes (submitted letter of interest to become a member of the subcommittee), Jason Massa (potential member), Kris Tardiff (Chair, Conservation Commission)

Staff: AnnieMarie Skinner, Carl Matson (open space and trails ranger), Ron Klemarczyk (consultant forester), Kearsten O'Brien (Senior Planner)

1. Call to Order at 5:15pm by Chair Philippe.
2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes from November 13, 2024
 - a. Rebecca Ross proposed the minutes for approval, and a second by Rik Van Riel
3. Trails Maintenance and Reporting
 - a. Ron Klemarczyk: Ron joined late, but the highlights of his written report were shared by AnneMarie, including updates to: Broad Cove Forest, Penacook Lake Watershed, Ross View Farm, Country Hills Forest.
 - b. Carl Matson: gave his report including updates on conservation easement reporting, wooly adelgid infestations, and support from City Police re: homeless populations in public trails areas here in Concord.
 - i. Jeff asked a question as to whether an abutter's concern was going to be addressed re: potential drug deals near his property and other trail issues. Carl noted that he might consider putting a camera out.
4. Other Business
 - a. Hikes
 - i. December 15, 2024 – led by engineer/amateur astronomer, moonlight hike on the MRGT Sunflower Trail, parking in trail parking lot at edge of sunflower farm, time to be determined.
 1. If no moon, December 16, 2025, same time
 - ii. January 18, 2025 – Peter Bartlett, Weir Rd-Boscawen Town Forest Trails, time to be determined
 - iii. March 29, 2025 – Peter Bartlett, Morono Park Trails, skunk cabbage hike, time to be determined
 - iv. Past Hikes:
 1. The last hike had 8 people and went well; they further reported on conditions on the trail.

2. Chair Philippe noted that attendance has been low, but perhaps this could be remedied by encouraging hikes at more easily accessed trails.
- b. Trail steward updates (Rik van Riel)
- i. A new steward Dana Sansom for West Locke Road trails
 - ii. There are three open positions:
 1. Swope Connector Trail
 2. District 5 Road to Carter Hill Connector Trail
 3. Marsh Loop for Broken Ground
 - iii. A reminder that Rebecca Ross would be taking on the Oak Hill trail from Shaker Road first small parking lot to the vista that was open and previously discussed.
 - iv. Rik updated the subcommittee on trails steward checks. These have been noted in his report "Trails check summary – fall 2024.pdf" that is on file with the city. Key takeaways:
 1. Ron requested that any serious maintenance needs (like missing/broken bridge parts) are reported immediately to the city through the proper channels. The city can incur liability here.
- c. 2025 subcommittee members
- i. Noted that Aaron Monier has resigned.
 - ii. Nick Holmes has submitted his application and will be voted on at tonight's Conservation Commission meeting. Nick made comments towards the end of the meeting:
 1. Lives on Rollins Court on State Street. Previously lived in Dunbarton. Becoming more involved in the Concord community. Has hiked, biked, snowshoed, or run all but 5 of Concord's trails – and loves them, a great asset to the community. Active in NEMBA and noted that appropriate siting is important. Also involved as a trustee in the MRGT, important as it is an accessible trail. Noted that the MRGT is going to open up opportunities for people with mobility limitations. Retired lawyer.
 - iii. Chair Phillippe updated the group that she would be staying on as chair for another year (pending confirmation by the Conservation Commission).
 - iv. Jason Massa also provided comments on his interest at the end of the meeting:
 1. Avid user of Concord Trails, living here since 2005. Also have covered large segment of trails by hike, bike, ski, dog-walking and more. Noted the trails infrastructure is one of the favorite things about living in Concord. Works in physical therapy. Does ad hoc trail work so interested in becoming a steward as well. Intends to apply for trails subcommittee.
 2. Comes to us at recommendation of Andrew Gould.
 - v. Process for application was noted to send letter of interest and resume to AnneMarie Skinner.

- d. Installation of winter recreation signs: Chair Phillippe presented the signage for the winter recreation area; these are of high quality. Kudos to Fran for her work getting these made. As a next step:
 - i. These are on to Ron for installation at time TBD this winter.
 - ii. Fran will coordinate invites with Rob Knight, Conservation Commission, city employees, AARP and members of the Trails Subcommittee.
- e. Proclamation of the Concord Conservation Commission honoring the service of Gail Page was read by Conservation Chair Kris Tardiff.
- f. There are four parking lots that are plowed: Swope, Oak Hill, Winant, Broken Ground
 - i. Additional parking lots likely plowed: Batchelder Mill, NH Audubon, and SPNHF
- g. If the Ghost Pipe Trail has not been blazed yet, it should be blazed white. Nick Holmes will talk to Matt Bowser on this.
- 5. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm by Chair Phillippe.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cheever