

Concord Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

1/7/2025 City Hall, 2nd floor conference room, 41 Green Street

Members Present:

Fran Philippe (Chair), Mark Cheever, Andrew Gould, Rik van Riel

Staff Present: Ron Klemarczyk (Consultant Forester), AnneMarie Skinner (City Planner),
Kearsten O'Brien (Senior Planner)

Guests: Jason Massa

Absent: Carl Matson, Judy Barrett Weatherbee, Rebecca Ross

1. Meeting called to order at 5:17 PM

Correction to minutes:

4bi: Dana Sansom to be added as trails steward

4biii: Trails from Shaker Road vista parking lot to the vista

4dii: add AARP to the list of people invited to the sign installation

Approval of 12/11/24 meeting minutes:

- a. Andrew Gould made the motion to approve, and Mark Cheever seconded the motion. Unanimous.
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2. Elect new chair, vice chair, and secretary for a one-year term of office
 - a. Nomination to Fran Philippe (Chair) (by Cheever), (Van Riel second). Unanimous.
 - b. Nomination to Mark Cheever (Vice Chair) (by Philippe), (Van Riel second). Unanimous.
 - c. Nomination volunteered for Andy Gould for Secretary (by Gould) (Cheever second). Unanimous.
 - d. Nick Holmes was accepted as new Trails Subcommittee member at last month's Conservation Commission meeting.
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3. Discuss 2024 goals, set goals for 2025, discuss annual report for 2024
 - a. Increase public awareness of invasive species in Concord and promote best land management practices.
 - Recommended to continue this goal for 2025
 - b. Proactively engage trail stewards to ensure every trail is checked ideally twice per year.
 - Recommended to Rik Van Riel that contact with stewards individually might be helpful.
 - Recommended add: "Checking trails twice per year and after a severe weather event"

- Recommendation for stewards to go to the website and review the PDF to check for accuracy or any necessary updates.
 - Delete "as necessary" to above.
- c. Continue community trail walks, partnering with local organizations as appropriate, ensuring that walk leaders are trained and appropriate to lead others in public hike settings.
 - Recommended to continue for 2025.
 - Recommendation to continue with the Mountain Goats group in 2025.
 - d. Review trail guide and website and update as necessary.
 - e. Install interpretive sign updates on city trails:
 - Old winter recreation area on Swope to Carter Hill connector trail. (Sign is made but not installed)
 - Cellar holes at Curtisville Rd. and Frost Rd trails - roll this over into 2025
 - f. Identify opportunities to increase access to trails through All Persons Trails in Concord.
 - The Merrimack River Greenway Trail sunflower segment was added
 - The Trails Subcommittee discussed adding ½ of the Sewalls Falls trail as an All Persons Trail.
 - g. A question was presented whether anything else was needed. After some discussion it was determined that this was a solid scope for the committee this year.
 - h. Annual Report: Once the minutes are done, staff will update the goals and put them into the Annual Report format for review at next meeting.
4. Trails Reporting:
- a. Ron Klemarczyk:
 - I. Trees were cut at Swope
 - II. The bridge near the Fiske parking lot in Winant needs replacement soon
 - III. Trees at Riley were cut
 - IV. Trees were cut at Locke Rd trails
 - V. The trail along river at Locke Rd will need to be moved farther away from the river due to ongoing riverbank erosion
 - VI. Trees were cut at Batchelder Woods
 - VII. Ron plans to install winter recreation sign on back side of Swope Park
 - b. Carl Matson: Off for the month of January
5. Trail Stewards:
- a. New Trail Steward: Nick Holmes- managing Swope to WEFT
 - b. New Trail Steward: Jason Massa- managing Swope to Carter Hill
 - c. Vacant: East Sugar Ball bike path

- d. Vacant: Marsh Loop at Broken Ground
6. City Hikes:
- a. 1/18 Weir Rd. Boscawen Town Forest hike led by Wendy Olson and Bob Lyon.
 - b. 3/29 Morono Park hike led by Peter Bartlett.
7. Other:
- a. Andrew Gould recommended adding a hyperlink to the trail maps page on the Trails Subcommittee webpage and the Conservation Commission webpage to make it easier to find the maps. AnneMarie will talk to the city web development department.
 - b. Andrew Gould suggested adding a switchback for an easier gradient for cyclists and some hikers to get up the very steep section on the Swope Winant Connector. Andrew offered to build this trail. AnneMarie to seek approval from St. Paul's School for this.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Andrew Gould, Secretary & Mark Cheever, Vice Chair