

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
November 10, 2020 at 5:15 pm
DRAFT

Chair Rob Knight called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM, the meeting was held via Zoom

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto; David Ross; Judy Weatherbee (alt); Rik van Riel (alt); Ron Klemarczyk, City forester; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Representative

Absent: Fran Philippe

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Ben Stephenson

The committee was authorized to meet electronically due to COVID-19. Chair Rob Knight called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

As Chair of the Concord NH Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Subcommittee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, and instructions are provided on the City of Concord's website at: www.concordnh.gov/planning

With Regard to providing public access to the meeting;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Subcommittee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through visiting the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/829848841>.

If you do not have website access, you may dial the following phone number 929-205-6099 and enter the webinar id 829 848 841.

*For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, via the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial *9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.*

With Regard to providing the public with a way to alert us about access problems;

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-225-8515 or send an email to: planning@concordnh.gov.

With Regard to adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting;

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

With that, let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Agenda items

1. Minutes: The minutes of the October 2020 meeting were accepted after a roll call vote and the addition of "the" before Knowlton Woods.

2. Knowlton Woods: The ROPES course class members built a bridge on the trail and cleaned trash at the cellar hole. Matt Bowser of NEMBA has been working on building the trail. Logging that is planned on the north side of the trail system hasn't begun but will start soon, per Ron Klemarczyk. Adjacent land has been logged by its owner.
3. Back Woods Trail: The Conservation Commission is still waiting for a response from the Fisk Hill Association regarding use of a small corner of the association's land for part of the trail.
4. Trail Maintenance: Rob Knight reports that the fall trail check is complete.
 - David Ross has improved the blazing at O'Reilly-Fleetham to direct hikers away from some abutting private land.
 - Ron Klemarczyk notes that Oak Hill and other trail culverts need to be checked for clogging.
 - The Oak Hill Road parking lot that holds just a few cars needs a small sign indicating this is an official trail-head. A kiosk is rejected due to the desire not to attract many hikers here in light of the size of the parking area and poor traffic visibility when leaving. Also at Oak Hill, Ron K has arranged for pot holes to be filled at the main parking lot.
 - At the Swope end of the Swope to Winant trail, the trail is very rocky. Volunteer Sam Evans Brown suggests removing some rocks. The Committee has no objection to this work. It is notable that an early 1900s foundation is located on private property near this trail.
 - At the Swope trailhead parking lot, Ron K has reached out to Chuck Rose to fill pot holes.
 - West End Farm Trail boundary with Mr. Marro has been surveyed. Work will begin soon to construct a bypass suitable for snowmobiles as well as hikers. Creating a parking area off Currier Road needs a state driveway permit since it is a state road.
 - An abutter to Batchelder Mill has clearcut a large area including both sides of a brook.
 - Greg Mannesto states his interest to work with Matt Bowser on the trail at Knowlton Woods. Beth will send all of us Matt's email so others may also contact him for work dates.

7. Other business:

Ben Stephenson joined the meeting at this point requesting to become a committee member. He is a frequent user of the trails and feels responsibility to help maintain them.

Delta Dental wants to organize two snowshoe races at Broken Ground. The Conservation Commission will make the decision on the races, but would like input from the Trails Committee. The committee discussed limiting races during mud season to preserve the trail integrity. The committee decided not to recommend a limit in the number of race participants, but a requirement should be trail clean-up by the race organizers before and after any races. Beth states that this has been a requirement. Races require a city permit and insurance.

Gail asked about the committee acquiring mechanical devices for picking up trash as was mentioned in an earlier meeting, using donated funds. Beth will look into it when time permits.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary