

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022 - DRAFT

In Attendance: Chairperson Scott Daniels; Vice Chair, Fran Philippe; Secretary, Gail Page; Judy Weatherbee; Rob Knight; Rob Talmadge; Alternate, Erin Waters
City Planning Div. representative, Beth Fenstermacher
Conservation Commission representative, Jeff Lewis
Absent: Greg Mannesto, and alternates, Ben Stephenson, Rik Van Riel, Ron Klemarczyk
Guests: Rebecca Ross, Rossview Farm

Agenda:

1. Minutes for both April and May, 2022 were approved as written.

2. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

- a. Work day for Swope Slope on Oak Hill – The vista at Swope Slope is growing in with small trees that need to be lopped. A late June date will work if Ron Klemarczyk agrees. Exact date to be determined.
- b. Rob K. reminds us to remove “muddy trail etiquette” signs as mud season has passed.
- c. NEMBA's Matt Bowser is handling the rogue bike trail created on Ry's Way at Broken Ground.
- d. Merrill Park's trail is in need of brush work and clearing. A work day is set for June 17th at 9:00 AM.
- e. Marty Janoschek has volunteered to steward the Bachelder Mill trails.
- f. Ron Klemarczyk's report is as follows: Cut and removed downed trees at Knowlton Forest and Ron's Way on Oak Hill, at Swope Park and the Swope-Winant Connector, and at Morono Park. He also repaired bridges at Broken Ground and Merrill Park, cut brush at Swope Slope on Oak Hill and around the Swope Park parking lot, and investigated a dirt bike user on the Carter Hill Connector. (Seems to have been a one-time event with no damage)

3. 2022 Goals and Projects:

- a. Two possible dates are proposed for exploring the possibility of connecting Broken Ground to Oak Hill via a trail. Exact date to be determined, but before the July meeting.
- b. Fran is searching for information gathered in the past about original European residents in and around the Broken Ground trails. She will also consult with Ron Klemarczyk who has done some research on this and other trail areas.
- c. Fran has sent photos of invasive bittersweet at Broken Ground to Beth Fenstermacher. No action is planned as yet. The Merrimack River Watershed Council is doing some invasive removal on Shaker Rd. but has not been in touch with the city. Scott will try to contact them about training on this matter that they could offer.

4. Other Business:

- a. It is apparent that some users are leaf-blowing trails, likely for bike use. We want to discourage this as the leaves and duff on the trails help to protect them from erosion. NEMBA as an organization is not advocating leaf blowing and will get word to members NOT to leaf-blow trails. Trail neighbors may also be doing it. In the fall, this sub-committee will erect signs at kiosks to discourage this practice. The Committee will consider suggesting a policy to the Conservation Commission, not a city rule. This discussion will be postponed until September when Rob K. returns.
- b. Group Hikes: Rob Knight reported on the hike he led at Contoocook River Park. He had 20 hikers

plus 2 leaders. Gail's hike at Boscawen Town Forest hosted 12 hikers and two leaders. In July, Scott will lead a hike at Jim Hill River Walk Saturday, July 9 at 9:30 am, and Fran will lead an August hike at Winant including the Back Woods Trail.

c. We are postponing any decision on including the Concord to Lake Sunapee Trail in our trail guide until some land ownership issues are resolved for this trail.

d. Beth reported that the Ranger position that Mel Caron had filled is being changed to a seasonal one (April to October) so that the salary offered can be more appealing. She has received feedback that a higher hourly wage will attract more applicants with enforcement backgrounds, which is a desirable qualification.

e. Conservation Commission representative Jeff Lewis reports that it will take up the newly created trail closure procedures at its meeting tonight.

f. Rob Talmadge reports bear sightings near his home on District 5 Rd. and notes that they are not showing fear of humans.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is July 13, 2022 at 5:15 in the Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,

Gail R. Page, recording secretary