

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2018

Present: Beth Fenstermacher, Rik Van Riel, Mike Schowalter, Rob Talmadge, Fran Philippe, Greg Mannesto, Rob Knight, Gail Page
Guests: Kris Tardiff, Kate Fleming, Suzi Pegg

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

1. Previous minutes were approved as written.
2. Kate Fleming of In-Town Concord addressed the committee. In-Town Concord seeks to promote downtown businesses. The organization desires to also promote trail events. Because the variety of trails in Concord is a jackpot for promoting Concord as a desirable place to set up a business. Feedback from the public and business owners is that they are unaware of the extent of the trail system in Concord.
2. Suzie Pegg, Economic Development Coordinator for Concord also spoke to the subcommittee about her office's task to bring business to Concord and retain the talent they desire by building awareness of the region and its benefits such as parks, trails and other businesses. The area has very low unemployment. Our well maintained trails and general quality of life here is a draw. Suzie added that having space for additional development is also essential. Millenials and retirees don't want to depend on cars but still need access to all areas of town. Zip cars and bike sharing are under discussion as an answer to this need. Private sector financing may make this more possible. Rik noted that shortcuts to some trails would be useful as well as more bike lanes.
3. Beth Fenstermacher reports there is a plan to conduct surveys at trailheads to see who is using the trails and what else they do in Concord. The summer intern will have this task.
4. Kris Tardiff of the Conservation Commission asked for feedback on the draft subcommittee structure document. The proposed document was approved as presented. It offers a written guideline for the Trails Subcommittee. Later this evening the Conservation Commission will discuss the trail criteria composed by this subcommittee for final approval.
5. Community Trail Walks – Mike Schowalter lead a hike on Oak Hill in April; On May 12th Rob Knight will lead a hike to Turkey Pond via the Audubon Center Trails; Tim Pifer and Fran Philippe will lead two hikes for AARP, an easy hike at Jim Hill River Walk (Fran) and a slightly more challenging one at Carter Hill (Tim).
6. Trail Maintenance and Reporting -
 - a. Rob has heard back from some but not all trail stewards on the condition of their trails post winter. The trail assignment list is up-to-date.
 - b. Per Chris Northrop, the Contoocook River Trail needs trash clean-up and he will use the city's blue bag program to accomplish it.
 - c. Rolinda Ave trail needs a fence at one spot to separate it from private property.
 - d. Fran Philippe has installed 14 of 18 signs at Broken Ground trail junctions with the help of Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Talmadge, and Tim Pifer. Additional volunteers are needed to finish the task.
 - e. Rob Knight and Tim Pifer are half finished with signs on the connector trail between Swope and Winant.
 - f. The Merrimack River Trail remains a favorite camping place for the city's homeless, resulting in a lot of trash in the area. Our subcommittee needs the PD to commit to patrolling the area. We note that when Terrill Park is connected to this trail, more foot traffic will make it less attractive for camping. Also, the start of the trail is grassy and needs to be mowed. Rob Knight said that this trail does not

reflect well on our trail system. The Conservation Commission should consider discontinuing it until the Greenway is finished.

g. Ron Klemarczyk has met with local bicyclers and laid out one trail at Broken Ground. He will lay out another after a timber harvest is completed.

h. Rob Talmadge suggests that we install signs where people have been creating trails on private land in addition to the official city trails on that land. The signs would remind them of the generosity of the private landowners whose land they are misusing. Verbiage for such signs will be considered at the next meeting.

h. Ron K. has removed numerous downed trees at Swope, Oak Hill and Broken Ground following recent wind storms. The unknown axe wielder from Broken Ground has apparently moved to the Riley Trails where a sugar maple and a hickory were taken down.

Plans are proceeding to bypass the muddy area on the West End Farm Trail close to Carter Hill Orchard. A new summer intern is starting June 4 and will work with Ron and Beth on various projects.

Next meeting will be on June 13th at 5:15

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page