

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails Subcommittee Meeting May 8, 2019

The Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee met at 5:15 pm on May 8, 2019 in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Tim Pifer, Vice Chair; Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Representative; Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant City Forester; Rob Talmadge, Greg Mannesto, Fran Philippe, Mike Schowalter; Rik Van Riel (alt).

Absent: Mike Lehman (alt), Dave Ross (alt)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guests: Hilary Thomson, Megan MacMullin, Leslie Talmadge, Lynn Woodard

1. Minutes of the April 10 meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Community Trail Walks:
 - April 20 - Rob Knight led five hearty hikers, ready to hike in the rain, at Contoocook River Park in Penacook. (The rain held off until the very end.)
 - May 5 - Gail led sixteen on a hike at Boscawen Town Forest. Positive comments were made regarding hiking on a Sunday.
 - June 15, 10 AM - Noon - Rob K will lead a hike on the Sewalls Falls Trail, beginning at Sewalls Falls Rd.
 - July 13, 10 AM - Noon - Fran will lead a geology hike at Oak Hill .Beth reported that the AARP Riley and Batchelder signs will be ready in August and that they would like to have an inaugural hike, during the week, to unveil them. She suggested that perhaps someone from the Trails Committee could lead the hike and/or be there to help.
3. Spring Trail Check: Rob Knight reported that the trails are in good shape with these to be noted:
 - wet spots on the Winant Connector Trail - Ron checked it
 - brush under the power lines on Broken Ground orange trail off Portsmouth St.
 - Russel Martin - Greg needs one more sign post
 - Greenway - one campsite, trees and branches
 - Swope - stumps on blue trail, also at Broken Ground and Winant
 - Locke Rd., Heritage Trail River Walk - trees down and trail needs to be moved away from the river. Canal Trail needs a plank walk. Ron will look at the situation.
 - Merrill Park - a downed tree, Ron cleared it
 - Riley - trails are brushy - will be cleared by Kathy Healy and her husband

4. Trail work days:

Mike Schowalter offered to reach out to the Concord Trail Runners to come together to work on the Audubon trails. Separate from that will be a work day at 4:30 on May 15 at Reserve Place, the Dimond Road section. Rob, Greg, Tim and Hilary volunteered. There is some heavy work to be done in the city right-of-way, clearing leaves from the ditches which are causing run-off down the road, and brush work. Rob T. asked if there might be a more permanent solution other than yearly clean-ups. Ron said that would need an excavator and if the ditch cleaning **was** done yearly, it would be easier.

5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting, Ron Klemarczyk:

- Batchelder Mill, took down a tree

-Oak Hill, at the top of Murray Bluff, rerouted the trail around a vernal pool; bypassed a stream with two plank walks on Ledges Pass; installed a plank walk on the Lower Trail

- Swope-Winant needs work. Ron hoped SPS students could help on their community service day, but they went elsewhere.

Beth reported that NHMBA completed their Broken Ground bike trail. Signs were put up on May 4th, one honoring Ry Perry for whom the trail is named and an opening ceremony was held on the 5th with some of his family. Beth suggested we have a similar sign telling about Howard Nowell at the Curtisville kiosk. Ron will contact his son, Brian.

Rob K suggested to Ron that he email the committee for help on some of his bigger projects. Beth said that Leandra will be back again this summer, but not as a forestry intern. She will be focusing more on the trails outreach and education, using Leave No Trace principals and training.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 so that members could attend the Conservation Committee meeting to hear Dick Lemieux's update on the Merrimack River Greenway Trail at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Philippe
Secretary pro-tem