

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-committee Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018

Present: Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Ron Klemarczyk, Gail Page, Beth Fenstermacher, Jim Owers, Audra Klumb, Rik Van Riel, Mike Schowalter, David Ross, Greg Mannesto, Rob Talmadge, Kathy Healy, David Swett, Ron Rayner, Mike Lehman, Mayor Jim Bouley, Leslie Talmadge, Hillary Thomson

1. Minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved as written.
2. Criteria for new trails presented at last month's meeting were approved by motion of Mike Lehman for presentation to the Conservation Commission once the new trail procedure is also ready.
3. Trails Abutting Winant Park: Conservation Commission member Jim Owers spoke regarding the bootleg trails created by bikers on private land adjoining Winant Park. The Star Granite land near the city's water tower is now posted by the land owner, Wayne Devoid, who has had several negative interactions with trespassers. Jim Owers has contacted Mr. Devoid and discussed creation of official city hiking trails on his land, which would be stewarded by the trails committee. Signage regarding respecting private property, instruction to stay on official trails and warning against creating alternate trails would discourage the building of random bike trails. Mr. Devoid was receptive to these ideas and Jim Owers is working on a Trail Agreement. As soon as the snow is gone, Jim will walk the existing trails and GPS them as first step in deciding which trails will be proposed as official trails.

Jim also reported on his work on securing several privately owned parcels between Winant and Walker State Forest/Little Pond Road. There is an extensive network of bootleg biking trails in this area. The Conservation Commission is working on a land swap with one landowner and the possible purchase of another parcel. Discussed how to control the creation of bootleg bike trails, and how to better to educate and work with the mountain bikers.

4. Mayor Jim Bouley joined the meeting as an observer but also spoke about the importance he sees in maintaining open space within the City. In terms of economic development in the city, he notes that potential businesses see open space as a plus when considering locating in Concord.

5. Community Trail Walks

a. The January 20th hike on the Riley Trails lead by Gail Page had twelve enthusiastic participants.

b. February 24 Jim Hill River Walk with the Library - Fran Philippe and Dave Ross will lead the hike. Hikers will sign up through the Library and its "Concord Reads" program. The book Hiking with Atticus is the reading selection.

c. Gail will lead a March hike, date and location to be determined.

d. Mike Schowalter will lead a hike in April.

6. Trail Maintenance & Reporting There is remaining money for signs. Oak Hill is the next priority. Need to order signs from prison before the end of the fiscal year in June. Mike Schowalter and Rik Van Riel will work on this.

Greg Mannesto said that Russell Martin trail has no signs. Beth Fenstermacher will obtain some.

Morono Park has a problem with dog feces. Bob Holdsworth volunteered to address this.

7. New Trail Procedure

Procedure for considering new trail was discussed. A draft procedure incorporating the ideas discussed will be presented at the next meeting.

8. Other Business

Beth Fenstermacher announced that the latest Open Space document is finalized and available. She will send it out to the Trails Committee members via an email attachment.

Ron K announced the existence of a new invasive species in Concord, a tree called Tree of Heaven or Ailanthis. There is one growing near the exit 14N intersection. It is an ornamental imported by nurseries but needs to be eliminated wherever found.

There is need for parking on Currier Rd where West End Farm Trail crosses. Marco Philippon from the Water Department and Bob Holdsworth from Leave No Trace will attend the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary