

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-committee meeting
September 13, 2017

Members Present: Beth Fenstermacher, Kathy Healy, Rob Talmadge, Hilary Thomson, Fran Philippe, Mike Lehman, Greg Mannesto, , Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Ron Klemarczk, Gail Page, Ron Klemarczyk

Guests: Chris Tardiff, Chair of Conservation Commission, Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission, Robert Erlenwein, Mike Schowalter, Rik Van Riel, Leslie Talmadge

1. Minutes of August 9, 2017 were approved after one correction at 4.b., Murray *Loop* changed to Murray *Bluff* trail.

2. Community Trail Walks: Fran had 11 walkers on Aug 26th on the Batchelder Mill Trails.

- Parks and Recreation's Yoga hike on 9/19 at Swope Park still has space for more registrants.
- Mayor's walk on Sept 30th at Sewall's Falls starting at the parking lot near the new bridge. Trails Committee members are encouraged to participate. Litter pick-up by the Greg Mannesto, trail steward, is planned for the week before this event.
- Gail will lead a hike on Oak Hill on October 14th at 10:00 AM, taking in views from Swope Slope and the fire tower.
- Five River's hike on Nov. 5 from Winant to Swope. Cars can be parked at Parker Academy. Optional shuttle back from Swope. Additional leaders or sweeps would be appreciated by Five Rivers.
- Fran will lead a community hike on November 18th.

3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

a. Vandalism has occurred at Batchelder Mill's marsh overlook and on 3 bridges in Broken Ground. All have been spray painted in multiple colors with various words, phrases and symbols. Fran reported this to the police who came and examined the damage. General Services has brown paint with which to cover the graffiti. Ron K and intern Peter will paint the Batchelder Mill overlook this Friday. A work session with several Committee members is set for 9/19 at 9:00 AM for the Broken Ground damage. Two wildlife cameras are on order and will be placed strategically near the bridges in Broken Ground. Rob Talmadge will assist in placing the cameras. The kiosks will contain notice that surveillance cameras are in use.

b. Ron Klemarczyk mowed the path through the field at Jim Hill River Walk that had become overgrown and invisible. Parks and Recreation will mow this path from now on. Ron also cut back the invasive multiflora rose at this site. He recommends treatment with herbicide to attack this fast-growing invasive.

Ron also brushed the Riley Lot on the south side of Hoit Rd., brushed the Daisy Beach loop at the Jim Hill Riverwalk, brushed the vista at Winant Park, cut downed trees at the Riley Lot and the Russ Martin Park, pulled tall weeds at the entrance to the Swope Park trails, installed new trail markers on the West End Farm Trail, installed a new kiosk at Russ Martin Park, and gathered trash at Lenehen Park. Ron will investigate the flagging that has appeared on Oak Hill. No one on the committee knows of any reason for it to be there. Ron will also proceed with the rerouting of Murray Bluff to avoid the steep rocky section.

c. Kiosk and trail at Broken Ground off Portsmouth St. The kiosk is ready for installation at the Portsmouth St. entrance. The trail from the parking lot on Portsmouth St. needs new blazing after the changes made by the new Unitil construction. Gail has some of the stakes with orange paint on the tips that were removed by someone(s) soon after they were installed across the power line. Now that the construction is finished, Gail will see that these stakes are reinstalled. Ron K intends to check the back lot lines of the houses on Portsmouth St to be sure the trail is not crossing into private property. Once that is done, Ron will flag the trail and Gail will blaze it.

d. and e. of Trail Maintenance and Reporting to be discussed at the next meeting.

Chris Tardiff, Chair of the Conservation Commission joined our meeting at this time to initiate discussion of a review of this sub-committee now that it has existed for 18 months. Our subcommittee is somewhat larger than other commissions and committees which average 8 members. Trails Sub-committee has 11 members. Reevaluation should consider if this is too large. Besides the sub-committee members, there are a cadre of volunteer trail stewards assigned to specific trails plus some volunteers who attend our meetings and offer input and labor. However, voting on decisions and proposals is limited to the appointed committee members.

Discussed whether we need to meet monthly, more frequently or bi-monthly. Most expressed the opinion that monthly is needed, but not more often.

The Conservation Commission elects officers in January. The Conservation Commission will annually appoint Trail Committee members in January (number of members to be determined), and election of Trail Committee officers will take place in January.

Discussed whether the roles and responsibilities of the committee members and volunteers need to be spelled out.

Beth notes that with 81 miles of trails within the city, she needs to be relieved of the role of recipient of reports of trail problems. ***At the next meeting we will take up the idea of designating specific members to handle certain duties such as trail reports and coordination of volunteers.***

4. Signs: Tim Pifer has samples coming from the prison workshop. A photo of the arrow signs was passed around and the committee authorized Tim and Beth to review the samples when they get them and then go ahead and order the signs, rather than wait another month for the full committee to view the samples. They will have reflective paint. Fran and Rob Knight created plans for where signs are to go at Broken Ground, Swope to Winant, and Swope Connector trails.

5. Beth distributed a list of tasks needing attention on various trails. Beth stated that any volunteers who have signed the waiver are allowed to use a chainsaw on the trail system when fallen trees need to be sawn. Just notify Beth when you will be working.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30

Respectfully Submitted
Gail Page, recording secretary

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 11, 2017 AT 5:15