

Concord Conservation Commission

Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

Present: Rob Knight, Bob Talmadge, Beth Fenstermacher, Ron Klemarczyk, Audra Klumb, David Ross, Hilary Thomson, Greg Mannesto, Fran Philippe, Chris Northrop, Gail Page, Anne Gwynne

Guests: David Swett, Tim Hargreaves

1. Minutes approved as presented.
2. Community Trail Walks:
 - Twenty members of the public attended the Mayor's walk at Sewalls Falls on 9/30/17.
 - The Parks and Recreation Department's yoga hike at Swope Park was a great success. 12 people took part.
 - Next walk is set for October 14 at Oak Hill, led by Gail Page.
 - Five Rivers will lead a hike on the Swope Winant Connector on 11/5. Registration with Five Rivers required.
 - Fran Philippe will lead a hike on Oak Hill from the Oak Hill Rd. entrance on 11/18.
 - December's hike will be led by Rob Knight, possibly at Swope Park.
3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
 - a. Locke Rd. Trail -- Fran reports that a pallet bridge on the canal trail is collapsed. Discussion as to making this a loop trail connecting to the Heritage Trail along the river resulted in a determination that the land between them is too wet. Ron K. noted that the course of the Merrimack River has shifted 40 feet to the east in the past 11 years. If this continues (and it is likely), the Heritage trail may have to be moved easterly. The trail extension along the edge of a corn field connecting to W. Portsmouth St. is now overgrown with tall grasses and would need regular mowing if we were to try and keep it open. The consensus is to make the trail a "dead end" and not maintain this connection although persons are not prohibited from using it. Beth will update the map on the website. A nearby business has told Fran that its employees will offer help with trail work.
 - b. Vandalism at Broken Ground and Batchelder Mill Trails – Update:

The motion-sensor camera caught a young man with an unauthorized campfire at the lookout platform in Batchelder Mill. Beth handed over the film to the Concord PD. No information on what they have done with it. Meanwhile, a team of 5 volunteers has painted over the graffiti at both BG and BMT.
 - c. Ron K and his intern erected a new kiosk at Portsmouth St.'s entrance to BG. The possible relocation of the start of the Orange Trail up the power line at that entrance is still being studied by Ron. The traditional trail is possibly on private property at the back yards of houses on Portsmouth St.
 - d. Oak Hill's Murray Bluff trail relocation is still in the planning stage.
 - e. Trail work list update:

David Ross and Rob Knight will take the major responsibility for the trail work list with Beth F. taking a smaller role in maintaining it. However, we should still email Beth with trails needing attention.

BETH REQUESTS THAT WE ALL SEND HER PHOTOS OF ALL THE CITY TRAILS SO SHE CAN USE THEM FOR THE TRAIL WEBPAGES.

Ron K reports that with the help of General Services, the Oak Hill Parking lot potholes have been filled. He replaced some boards on the overlook deck at Riley Lot trails, sent a letter to Concord Fire Dept about the fires set at Batchelder Mill Trails, he cleaned up an illegal campsite at Lehtinen Park and filled 7 bags with trash, he replaced

trail markers at Rossvew so they are now consistent with other markers there. Ron notes that the trail blaze colors on the Swope Park map are wrong. Overhanging trees on Frost Rd in Broken Ground have been cut back. Ron announced a timber sale planned for an area near Penacook Lake and Via Tranquilla. Ron is working with Ed Roberge, City Engineer, on repairing an undermined bridge abutment for a Sewalls Falls Trail Bridge.

4. Update on Signs:

We are still awaiting a quote for producing the trail signs at Broken Ground.

5. Other Business:

Currently Ron Klemarczyk does most of the chainsaw work on the trails. It would be helpful if others could be called upon when such work is needed.

6. Next Meeting is on November 8, 2017, 5:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary