

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
February 13, 2021
DRAFT

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Greg Mannesto, David Ross; Fran Philippe; Scott Daniels; Ben Stephenson (alt.); Kristine Tardiff and Jeff Lewis of the Conservation Commission; Ron Klemarczyk, consultant city forester

Absent: none

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

Guest: Cathy McCommish

The committee was authorized to meet electronically due to COVID-19. Chair Rob Knight called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

As Chair of the Concord NH Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Subcommittee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, and instructions are provided on the City of Concord's website at: www.concordnh.gov/planning

With Regard to providing public access to the meeting;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Subcommittee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through visiting the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/829848841> .

If you do not have website access, you may dial the following phone number 929-205-6099 and enter the webinar id 829 848 841.

*For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, via the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial *9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.*

With Regard to providing the public with a way to alert us about access problems;

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-225-8515 or send an email to: planning@concordnh.gov.

With Regard to adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting;

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

With that, let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Agenda items

1. Minutes: Corrected to change the description of Fran's request to make a loop trail at Locke Rd. connecting onto Locke Rd, not to the canal trail. Also correct the title of the trail that parallels the Merrimack River from "Locke Road Trail" to "River Walk". Minutes accepted with these corrections.

2. Cathy McCommish, the new intern, was introduced. She will start working for the City in mid-to late-April
3. Knowlton Woods: The previously scheduled work party for this new trail was postponed due to hazardous weather conditions. It has not been rescheduled. Ron Klemarczyk has reflagged the trails and they are ready for construction. It is permissible to work there independent of a work party. Leave cut saplings 3' - 4' tall to facilitate pulling them up with their roots in the spring. Limbs should be cut fully back to the tree trunk.
3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
 - a. Locke Road Trails: There is no more parking allowed on West Portsmouth St at the Shaker Rd School property. The subcommittee recommends that walking distances be added to the map for these trails. The River Walk trail will eventually disappear as the river erodes the bank. It has already been re-cut for this reason over the years. Ron K. recommends another re-routing away from the bank edge this summer.
 - b. Oak Hill has had an ATV user on the Lower Trail. Ron K. asks that anyone who sees this person, please get the ATV registration number.
 - c. Ron K. has cut back the growth of trees that were blocking the view of the Capital Dome at Winant Park. Another tree needs to be cut but it will take two persons to do it safely. He found an American Chestnut tree with a 4 inch trunk at this same site and left it uncut.
 - d. Ron K. removed a downed tree on the Carter Hill connector trail.
4. Goals for 2021 were accepted. List is attached. Discussion:
 - * Fran suggests we ensure that private property signs are in place where required.
 - * Re decommissioning trails, we need to determine if any will be decommissioned before the map and guide is revised. The city applied for a grant to widen the Merrimack River Greenway, a path this subcommittee has discussed removing from our maintenance responsibilities.
 - * Heritage Trail: Beth has been unable to locate a contact person for the Heritage Trail. She will follow up with the State and get the contact information to Fran.
 - * Replacing the bench on Swope that is broken. Ron K. has the pieces and plans to repair it and set it back in place.
 - * Gail will research city rules for adding a bench on city property and suggests one at the Beaver Pond at Broken Ground. The Conservation Commission will have to approve it.
5. Kiosks: Discussed list of standard contents. Beth reports that a new system for communicating problems/concerns has been adopted by the city and perhaps this might belong in the kiosks. Anne Gwynn will draft info on the Trail Committee and volunteering. Beth will circulate the list of standard kiosk contents. All trail stewards will be asked to check the kiosks at their trailheads this spring to confirm the contents are complete and if anything needs replacement.
6. The Conservation Commission will take up the matter of requiring dogs to be leashed on city trails at this evening's meeting.
6. Rob Talmadge is ending his recent 3-year subcommittee membership and states his desire to remain for another 3-year term. Dan Williams would like to be a trail steward and has volunteered to join the subcommittee when there is an opening. Rob K. will see if there is a trail needing a steward.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Page, recording secretary

Concord Trail Committee
2021 Goals - Accepted 2/10/21

1. Revise trail maps and trail guide: New edition of trail guide - target date: June 2021
[Beth]
2. Standardize information in trailhead kiosks: Make a list of the standard contents and have trail stewards check their kiosks regularly. Include information about the Trails Subcommittee and info about volunteering.
3. Decommissioning trails: Establish a policy and procedure to remove trails from our network and start removing unmaintained trails from our maps. [Rob K]
4. West End Farm Trail: Develop a new route to reconnect the north and south halves.
5. Maintain treadpath on heavily used trails: Address soil erosion, unintended widening, and downhill creep on heavily used trails (e.g., Swope). [Ron]
6. Locke Road trails: Review the trails and improve the network, adding a loop if possible. Clarify or remove the Heritage trails from the Locke trail map.
7. Bench at Swope Park: Replace the broken bench at the yellow trail outlook.[Ron]
8. Bench at Broken Ground: Consider a bench overlooking the beaver pond. [Gail]
9. Trails named after people: Add information about the person in the trail guide.
10. Develop a permanent informational sign to be posted where our trails cross private property.