

Concord Conservation Commission
Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023
DRAFT

Present: Fran Philippe, Acting Chair; Gail Page; Rebecca Ross; Aaron Monier (alt); Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Liaison

City Planning Division staff: Beth Fenstermacher

Absent: Greg Mannesto; Rik Van Riel (alt); Erin Waters(alt)

Guests: Mark Cheever

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Ms. Philippe, Acting Chair

1. Motion to approve minutes from June 14th. Fran wanted it noted that the Broken Ground Trail proposal vote passed 3 - 1 not unanimously.

June 14th minutes approved.

- Motion to appoint Aaron Monier to Trails Subcommittee Secretary. Approved unanimously, subject to Conservation Commission appointing him a full member at their meeting.
2. Continue Broken Ground Checklist Discussion:
 - Matt Tarr UNH Cooperative to conduct a wildlife study – Ron K. and Matt Bowser to attend site walk.
 - Jim Oehler of Fish and Game will also conduct a study of area.
 3. Jeff Lewis presented first-phase checklist for the proposed trail at Richard's Community Forest. (See attached)
 - Ron K. presented a topographical map of the proposed trail site. Noted a significant deer population due to hemlock groves in the area. However, the invasive species hemlock woolly adelgid may change the characteristics of the forest.
 - Recognized wetland in the area and potential vernal pools.
 - Jeff Lewis indicated that power line work will be taking place this fall and trail work wouldn't start until 2023. Very preliminary.
 4. Heather Shank was introduced to the Trails Subcommittee. She will be taking over for Beth Fenstermacher going forward until a new Assistant City Planner is hired.
 5. Trail Maintenance and Reporting
 - Ron's Trail Report
 - Spear's Park blowdowns and been cleared.
 - Brushed the entrance to the trail to the powerlines.
 - Installed trail signs at Morono Park.
 - Carter Hill Connector bridge; Tree fell and broke small foot bridge. The wood was rotted so it was replaced.
 - Bunton Lot timber sale. West End Farm Trail near I-89. 8,000 ft area for hemlock salvage.
 - Carl's Trail Report

- Carl has been working on refurbishing trail kiosks at trailheads
- Installed signs at Morono Park. No motorized vehicles and information about multi-use trails.
- Other trailheads that he worked on include Marjory Swope, Batchelder Mills, Locke Rd., Jim Hill Riverwalk.
- Noted that some "unsavory activity" has been observed but his presence has made a difference.
- Spring Cleanup
 - We will need to obtain a list of the trail stewards from Rik.
 - Ron noted that it's more beneficial to cut limbs close to insertion as opposed to just the area restricting the trails
 - Broken Ground bittersweet removal project:
 - Ron has shrub grubber but it's proven only mildly effective.
 - Potential for volunteer day. Big vines can be cut but hand pulling will also be necessary.
 - It was noted that you need to hire somebody to spray herbicide.
 - Beth noted that the vegetation is also growing into the trails at Batchelder Mill Trail, narrowing the trail, it could use a trail day to cut back.
 - Fran suggested that we should have more social events for the trail stewards. Mel implemented this previously and it turned out to be very successful. Carl will follow through.
 - Sewalls Falls Group Hike was very successful per email from participant.

5. Other Items

- Next Group Hike August 12th - TBD
- Carl M. volunteered to lead group hike in September.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Monier