

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails Subcommittee Meeting
April 14, 2021
DRAFT

Attendees: Rob Knight, Chairperson; Gail Page, Secretary; Rob Talmadge; Rik Van Riel; Judy Weatherbee; Ben Stephenson; Jim Owers, Kristine Tardiff and Jeff Lewis of the Conservation Commission; Ron Klemarczyk, consultant city forester
Absent: Greg Mannesto, David Ross, Fran Philippe, Scott Daniels
Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

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 of March 10th 2021 were accepted as presented.
2. New trail Updates:
 - a. An agreement has been signed with Bryce Lambert allowing the Cart Path trail to cross a corner of his property as part of the Back Woods Trail system. The map, signs and blazing need updating. The intern who is starting soon for the summer will be given the task of blazing this

section with orange paint. The connector trail from the Yellow Trail to the BWT is to have yellow and orange blazes. In addition, now that the BWT is official and complete, the map at the Fisk Hill Rd entrance kiosk needs updating. Five Rivers Land Trust has funds from an endowment that can fund the update. Finally, this new trail section needs either a culvert or plank walk over a wet area as well as removal of a tree hung up on other trees. Ron will enlist help for this.

- b. Following a meeting with Don Ross, Ron has flagged an alternative route for the Swope Connector Trail to avoid the farm operations at Ross View Farm. The trail will go south through the Crosby property, then along the edge of Rossview Farm property. The Rosses will still prohibit horses and mountain bikes on the Ross property. Rebecca Ross joined the discussion to say that if the new Swope Connector trail went satisfactorily, they would be willing to discuss rerouting the WEFT and access points of entry onto the Ross property. The city is bearing the cost of these changes to avoid continuing conflict over this easement. Rob Talmadge expressed thanks to the Ross family for cooperating in working out a solution.
 - c. At Knowlton Woods, the west side trail is almost complete. Mike Bowser is adding some switchbacks to the east trail and plans to separate bikers and hikers for a section where bikes will be going fast. Ron K would like to see and approve any reroute. The parking lot remains to be done.
3. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:
- a. Rob Knight reports that trail reports are coming in from stewards for the spring trail check. He has removed “muddy trail” signs. Judy Weatherbee will do so also at Oak Hill.
 - b. Ron has removed downed trees from the Carter Hill/Swope connector, Batchelder Mill, Horse Hill trails, and the Swope-Winant connector.
 - c. Ben Stephenson reported someone is placing sticks and brush on a rock formation that bikers like to use just off the Krupa Loop trail which is a hazard. No one on the sub-committee is aware of this. Ben will keep an eye on it.
 - d. Ben also notes that confusion reigns at the top of Oak Hill as to where it is legal to walk and bike. Ron K had placed a “trail closed” sign at a trail that goes onto private land but it may have been removed. The only official city trail to and from the tower runs below a power line before entering the woods heading toward Shaker Rd. The city property line is blazed red and trail users need to avoid all private land on Oak Hill.
4. Rob Knight and Fran Philippe and anyone else interested will examine the question of a loop trail through the woods at Locke Rd. Meet there Wednesday April 21 at 9:00.
5. The summer intern, Cathy McComish, starts next week. She will do easement monitoring, update kiosks as needed, and work with Ron K.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm. Next meeting will be on May 12 at 5:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail R. Page