

## TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

141 Keyes Road, 1st floor Conference Room

February 28, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

Attending: Bob White (chair), Lori Capone (Department of Natural Resources), David Clarke, Carlene Hempel (scribe), Jonathan Keyes, Ken Miller, Peter Siebert

Members absent: Spencer Borden.

Stewards present: Brooke Bero, Wayne Lobb, Ned Perry, Lisa Pohl, Bill Robichaud

Visitors: John Wood, photographer, Kathryn Angell

Minutes: The minutes of the January 31, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved.

Steward Reports:

West Concord Park: Trail steward Beth Baryames reported that the trails at West Concord Park look good.

Annursnac Conservation Land: Trail steward Carol Aronson reports that the trails at Annursnac look good.

Emerson-Thoreau Amble and River Confluence: Trail steward Wayne Lobb reported that both of the trail networks he's responsible for look good.

White Pond Reservation: Committee member and trail steward Ken Miller reported that the White Pond trails look good.

Reformatory Branch: Trail steward Bill Robichaud reported that the Reformatory Branch trails look good. Trail steward Ned Pretty reported that the ridge trail at Gowing's Swamp, which is accessible off Independence Road, also looks good. He also said he took care of some branches across that part of the trail.

Old Rifle Range: Committee member and trail steward Carlene Hempel reported that the Old Rifle Range trails look good.

Punkatasset and Estabrook Woods: Carlene reported that there was a large tree down across the Punkatasset Trail leading away from Hutchins Pond toward Esker Trail.

Barretts Mill: Brooke Bero reported that the trails at Barretts Mill look good but there is still an area where people are throwing dog waste into a thorn bush which she can not access. Lori provided Brooke with a trash picker which Brooke will use to try to remove this pile.

Committee Business:

Virtual tours of trails: Williams Road resident John Wood visited the Committee to explain his offer to take panoramic images of the Town's trails to be posted on the Town website and 360cities.net. John has been in

Concord since 1978 and in recent years has been dabbling in panoramic photography. He explained that because it's not possible to map a spherical object onto something flat, his panoramas can only be seen on a screen such as a computer or tablet. To do this, he stitches together individual images to make a 360-degree scene. He has already taken photos of numerous sites in Concord including Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, the MCI property behind where Junction Village assisted housing is proposed, Brister's Spring, Ball's Hill, Egg Rock, the site where the future Rte. 2 Bruce Freeman Rail Trail bridge will be located, the water tower at Mattison Field, Second Division Brook Mill Dam, and so on.

John asked the Committee for suggestions of more areas to shoot. Committee chairman Bob White said there will be a volunteer event in June during which people will be building bog bridges. John said he will plan to be there. Carlene suggested that the assessed trails would be a good thing to add to his list. Committee member Peter Siebert said capturing images of the pitch of those trails would be hard to attain.

Assistant Director of Natural Resources Lori Capone reported that she has already [made a digital list of John's panoramas and linked them to the NRC home page](#).

Peter suggested that if the trail maps become interactive on the NRC site, we could embed John's photos.

#### Warrant Article 28:

Concord residents Lisa Pohl and Kathryn Angell came to ask for support of their warrant article that seeks to have the Town prioritize open space and access to it in the future. Kathryn said preservation of open space is an implicit policy in Town, but they want it to be an explicit policy so as to ensure its emphasis through changing populations and administrations.

Kathryn said the idea is to make sure the people of Concord say "this is important to us," and emphasized that when the Town is looking at open spaces – whether acquiring new land or a change in use – that it always takes public access to open space into account.

Peter asked the pair what they believe, in practical terms, this initiative will accomplish.

Lisa said that in past snowstorms, various trailheads were not plowed. She mentioned that the new October Farm lot, off Ball's Hill Road, was not plowed after the recent storm. She said she had to park on a private road to access the site, which she assumes residents don't appreciate. In situations such as those, she thinks the Town should commit to plowing trailheads and parking lots for conservation lands throughout town.

Peter wondered about what this would do to a constrained budget.

Kathryn answered that if it is a stated priority, the Town would figure it out. She added that if the Town doesn't get to every trailhead, it should certainly get to the heavily used ones. She used the Old Rifle Range as an example.

Bob said the Trails Committee would not make a decision whether to support the article, but he was happy to hear the details and give input.

October Farm Riverfront: The committee talked about how to blaze October Farm since part of it is under the care of Concord Land Conservation Trust and part is under care of the Town. Committee member Jay Keyes said he wishes there could be an agreement between the two groups to figure out a common blaze. Currently, the CLCT has white and yellow blazes with its logo stamped in the middle, and Concord Trails has a plain yellow blaze for its primary trails, as well as red and blue blazes for secondary and connecting trails. Bob said this is still under discussion but the thought was to blaze Ball's Hill similarly to the Mattison Field loop which uses Town yellow blazes on Town land and yellow CLCT blazes on their holdings.

Harry Beyer Assessed Trail: Bob asked David if he's been in touch with the Committee on Disability to determine whether a member could participate in a photo session at the Harry Beyer Assessed Trail kiosk. David said he tried but had not gotten an answer yet.

The Art Ramble 2017: Bob said he conducted a walk on the Emerson-Thoreau Amble with Jen Houle, curator, for artists interested in participating in the Umbrella's summer art installation at the [Hapgood Wright Town Forest](#), but only one artist showed up. They did meet another potential artist along the way, who was interested in participating.

Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Volunteer Day: Bob said Beth Gula, Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor for AMC, has been in contact to coordinate another volunteer day to construct additional bog bridges along the Emerson-Thoreau Amble for June 17<sup>th</sup> and possibly add another at Fairyland Pond. Peter suggested using volunteers at the Town Forest to stabilize the red trail on the east side of Fairyland Pond. He was thinking stairs might be in order. Lori said that area needs some professional design to remedy the situation. Bob repeated his warning that stairs eventually fall apart, forcing people to walk beside them.

Making trail connections: Bob reported that he received an email from a professor at the University of Massachusetts who was planning to conduct a class in architectural landscaping with a focus on the Minuteman National Park. The professor said his students are looking at ways to connect National Park lands that are disconnected. The Committee members agreed they thought it would be wonderful for the professor and his students to determine where those connections could be, and mentioned areas such as the trails behind the Massport property on Virginia Road, Gowings Swamp and Moses Pond Conservation Land.

Massport property: Lori asked Bill about the status of an effort to map trails that connect Concord to Bedford along property owned by the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) behind Gaining Ground farm on Virginia Road. There's a two-mile trail located on 42.5 acres of property there. Bill said he has talked to a mapper in Bedford but that the effort is on hold for a couple of months.

Monument Farm Road: Lori reported that new land owners on Monument Farm Road, which is the last left off Monument Street before entering the town of Carlisle, have consented to sign a License Agreement that provides public access over the existing trail at 15B Monument Street which connects with Monument Farm Conservation Land and Estabrook Woods.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2017, at 8 a.m. in the first floor conference room at 141 Keyes Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Hempel