

TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting via Zoom

February 22, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

Attending: Bob White (chair), Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Director), Will Holden (Land Manager), David Clarke, Spencer Borden (scribe), Jonathan “Jay” Keyes, Ken Miller

Members absent: Bill Kemeza, Carlene Hempel

Stewards present: Kathy Angell, Beth Baryjames, Alice Galinat, Bill Robichaud, Wayne Lobb, Ned Perry, Isabel Bailey

Visitors: Mark Gailus, Matt Johnson (Select Board Liaison), Karlen Reed

Chairman Bob White called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

Minutes:

The minutes for January 25 were discussed. Delia will work in the suggested changes.

On a motion made by David Clarke and seconded by Jay Keyes, the minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote, as amended.

The minutes for November 30 were discussed. On a motion made by David Clarke and seconded by Spencer Borden the minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote, as amended. David Clarke commended the detailed minutes collected by Carlene Hempel. Delia will post the minutes.

STEWARD REPORTS:

Annursnac Baptist Brook: No report.

Baker Ave Boat Launch: Isabel Bailey reported that she has many pollinator plants and is willing to share them.

Barrett’s Mill: Kirk Kinder away until March 1.

Emerson-Thoreau Amble: Wayne reported all okay, with the usual winter ice conditions.

Mattison Field: Elizabeth Gudman has taken responsibility for the Mutt Mitt dispenser. The more complete trail map Will had updated is posted at the kiosk. Elizabeth found no issues except for flooding by the Sudbury River that made the trail impassable.

Moses Pond/Ridge Trail: Ned Perry reported that ice is present. Plans for the bog bridge at Gowings Swamp are moving forward. He also reported that a contractor has clear cut many trees at a house adjacent to Moses Pond.

October Farm: No report.

Old Rifle Range: Reported a tree down that has been cleared and another to be cleared. No other problems.

Powder Mill Woods: Gene Delsener away. Will report later this week.

Punkatasset: David reported flooding from Hutchins Pond that completely covered the trail in two locations where there is no room to get past it.

Reformatory Branch: Bill reported the trail is in good shape with the normal winter conditions. He asked about progress with the situation at Bow and Lang, for which Delia said she is seeking more deed information.

Rivers Confluence: Kathy Angell reported that she had walked some of the area and found flooding from the river.

Town Forest: Bob reported that David Clancy has taken responsibility for the Mutt Mitt dispenser.

West Concord Park: Beth reported trails are in good shape. There is a lot of trash beside the Concord Teacakes bakery that she plans to take care of.

Westvale-Harrington: Gene away. Will report later this week.

White Pond: Ken Miller reported holes in the ice, presumably from people fishing there. With the weather warming, there is a threat of people falling through the ice. Skaters may be present on the ice. The new buildings in Sudbury may increase the foot traffic to White Pond. Delia mentioned that we should watch for new unapproved trails.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Bob announced that Will Holden will take over steward relations and reporting. The stewards should send their reports to Will with copies to Bob and Delia.

Matt Johnson mentioned that he has cut Asiatic Bittersweet near Strawberry Hill Road.

Land Manager's Report: Will Holden is doing GIS trail data improvements for the next town trails map. He showed before and after images of corrections to the trail in Heywood Meadow. Will has placed updated maps at some of the kiosks.

An eagle scout has created new signs for White Pond as part of his project. Bouke Noordzij has been building bluebird boxes that will be placed in some of the conservation properties.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ned Perry inquired about the status of wood duck boxes on the ponds. Some have been cleared out at Mink Pond. Mass Wildlife maintains them.

Bob White reported that Phil Posner will present Article 46 and Mark Gailus will present Article 47 at the Finance Committee meeting on March 3rd. Mark will also present his article at our March Trails Committee Meeting. Karlen Reed said citizen petition articles will be presented to the League of Women Voters at their meeting on March 4th

Isabel noted difficulty with getting the zoom link to work. Alice suggested a copy and edit solution. Bob asked if the Zoom link could be sent in the same email with the agenda each month.

Beth reported that the central trail at Mattison Field, which was closed, is getting more foot traffic. Delia said that it was closed to protect the bobolink habitat. The rope closure will be re-installed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2022, at 8 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Spencer Borden