TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 29, 2021
141 Keyes Road, 1st Floor Conference Room
Concord, MA
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Attending: Bob White (chair), Delia Kaye (Natural Resources Division), Spencer Borden, Bill Kemeza (scribe), Ken Miller

Members absent: David Clarke, Carlene Hempel, Jonathan “Jay” Keyes

Stewards present: Alice Galinat, Wayne Lobb

Visitors: Matthew Johnson (liaison from the Select Board), Mark Gailus

Minutes: Since the edited minutes from the previous meeting had not been circulated to the committee, a motion was made by Ken Miller and seconded by Spencer Borden to table their approval to the next meeting. All voted in favor.

STEWARD REPORTS:

Annursnac-Baptist Book Conservation Land: Bob reported that he heard from the trail stewards that all looked good.

Baker Avenue Boat Launch Site: Bob reported that Polly Stadt added flowers to the planter box and is keeping it watered. The area looks pretty good but still needs wood chips along the trail.

Barrett’s Mill: Bob White announced that we have a new steward for this land, Kirk Kinder, who replaces Brian Ford. Kirk has pulled knotweed from the stone wall beside the entrance and brushed out the red trail that had become overgrown.

Emerson-Thoreau Amble: Trail Steward Wayne Lobb reported that much looks good but there is a significant amount of knotweed behind the Emerson House that Wayne has attacked but needs monitoring. Delia will add that to the Crew’s task list. Wayne thanked the crew for their good work brushing out trails.

Mattison Field: Bob reported that he and Joe Zizzo removed some downed trees along the trails. Also, along the newly cut trail Bittersweet is advancing and needs to be addressed. The Bittersweet problem was reported to Will Holden.

Moses Pond: Bob reported that he and Ned Perry cleared the trees along that path.
October Farm: Bob reported that some downed trees need to be removed. Reported to Will Holden.

Old Rifle Range: Trail Steward Alice Galinat, reported that the trails were in good shape. One can clearly see there has been beaver activity on Kennedy’s Pond, although less so recently. There is still a problem with folks illegally dumping, even near the sign prohibiting it, which the Crew removes as needed. There is a vernal pool that Alice observed, and that Delia is in the process of certifying it with the Commonwealth. Bob has fixed some trail blazes that had become detached.

Powder Mill: Bob received a report from Gene Delesner reported that all was fine.

Punkatasset Trails: No report was received. Bob reported that we need a new trail steward since Richard Schriefer has left.

Reformatory Branch and Cemetery Lands Trails: Bob received reports from Bill Robichaud and Elizabeth Gudman that all was OK.

Rivers Confluence Trails: Bob received a report from Jim Balfour reported that all was fine.

Hapgood Wright Town Forest: Bob pointed out that there is a need to address the trail that runs from Cambridge Turnpike to the pond. A significant portion is through a very wet area. David Clancy, Will Holden and Bob visited to consider options for improvement. David suggested eliminating it, but historic value associated with Henry David Thoreau and its use as a connecting route possibly indicates keeping it. Bob suggested that the trail be cut into the hillside. Delia will look into it, though expressed concern about potential erosion.

West Concord Park: Bob received a report from Kirk Kinder that all is in good shape except for the trail out to Lawsbrook Road, which he brushed out.

Westvale-Harrington Trails: The trail crew has mowed the trails. Bob and Gene Delesner cleared a downed tree and brushed out the red trail along the Assabet River.

White Pond: Bob and Ted Tyson have removed some fallen trees along the trails. Ken Miler pointed out that the sign limiting bike access has been working. There was also a discussion about the Blue-Green Algae that has emerged and has thus discouraged visitors.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Trail Maps: Bob reported that Delia is finalizing the new 8 ½” by 11” trail maps with information on the reverse side that Bob had rewritten and were edited by David Clarke. These new maps will be placed at the kiosks at trailheads. They are able to be printed on a single sheet of standard paper making them much less expensive and easier to be reproduced than the trail guides. The larger map for each trail will still be posted at the kiosks along with a standard QR code for all locations that takes users to the web site for guides and maps.
New Trail near Kennedy Pond:  Bob reported that he cut and blazed a new loop trail on the hill above Kennedy Pond that has an excellent view, through the trees, to the pond. He would like to add a bench. Delia will provide the resources for it. He had hoped to connect to the already established pond-side trail but the high terrain made that unfeasible.

New Trail Proposal:  Bob said that Richard Forman has proposed a new trail in the Old Rifle Range near Caterina Heights. Bob and Delia will look into this.

CPA Funds:  Delia pointed out that Town Meeting approved the funding on all requests made by Natural Resources. This includes the conservation restriction on the Emerson property; the Chamberlin Park footbridge survey and permitting; the Warner’s Pond final design and permitting for dredging, and the Old Rifle Range trail work survey and design plans.

Conservation Restrictions:  Bob asked Delia to help us understand how Conservation Restrictions work. Delia said that each restriction is unique; that the town holds about 100 of them on a variety of properties. They can be on public or private land, and the owner retains the fee. The CR holder is responsible for ensuring that the integrity of the CR is upheld, and the the town’s Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee monitors them for this purpose. There are also a number held by the Concord Land Conservation Trust.

Other Trail Project Support:  Bob did a site walk with Art Schwope to offer advice on construction possibilities for improving a steep trail in the Conantum Woods. He also met with Burton Flint and walked his idea for a trail from Riverwalk to Cousins Park and on to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Bob referred both Art and Burton to Delia for development requirements.

OTHER BUSINESS:  
   The Reformatory Trail- Minuteman Bike Trail Connection:  Bill Kemeza asked whether the upcoming paving of the Minuteman Bike trail to the border of Concord at the Reformatory Trail would be part of the Trails Committee future endeavors. Delia believed it would be a separate committee. Mark Gailus of Prescott Road asked to speak because he has been following this issue. He reminded the committee that, recently, the Bruce Freeman Trail Committee had considered requesting that they be authorized to take on this task. Subsequently they have realized that they still have much to do for the Bruce Freeman development. Mark pointed out that the Town of Bedford, at this moment, does not have the funds to pave the Minuteman trail to the Concord Town line. He suggested that Concord not move too quickly to engage in development plans along this route.

Adjournment:  Bob adjourned the meeting at 9:15AM

Next Meeting:  The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2021 at 8:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Kemeza