

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday March 18, 2024

Members Present: Melanie Taylor Coombs, Hazen Carpenter, Lawrence Furbish, Dollie Hutchins, Dereck Bourque, Shalimar DeBusk, Eric St. Onge, Katie Manende-Hall, Thom Gagne, Al Pollard, Sam Parady

Dave Parent and Brady Lloyd had excused absences.

Guest: Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:03

1) Approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Katie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report: Unspent CIP balance is \$8,324.70. Special revenue account is \$5,856.29 plus \$15,000.00 encumbered for the Rail Trail. Brady and the committee remain relatively hopeful for a \$30,000.00 2024-25 budget.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach - (i) Katie mentioned multiple posts over the past week generating a relatively good response online and coordinating with Melanie to transfer social media log-ins. (ii) A gate near the Shaw's Ridge transmission line has fallen on the RT. This could be due to erosion. Beer cans were noted nearby. Hazen wondered if the gate might not be needed or could be moved but Thom and Dollie said it should be restored in-place. (iii) The committee pondered about the current status of ATV usage from The Depot to Shaw's Ridge as it had previously been allowed there.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) 6 gates for the RT need to be installed. Jim Roux will help. Posts need to be drilled which will be the biggest task. Thom volunteered to help on a Thursday afternoon. Dereck said he had a generator if needed. (ii) Bull Pine tree service will look at the Mousam Way trailhead on Pleasant St to clear the brush. The nearby homeowners will need to be contacted because many of the saplings and branches cross the property boundary. (iii) Erosion along the trail near Pioneer Ave was discussed, gravel and grading is needed. (iv) Eric removed a fallen tree near Gowen Park and volunteered to clear one near The Depot. (v) Markers near the culvert at the School St parking lot would keep drivers away from the ditch. (vi) RT Hanson Ridge fence still needs repair. (vii) There is a new washout on the High School Loop. (viii) Carpenter's Crossing ought to be widened eventually. Hazen proposed seeking grant funding to improve it. Monica noted the bridge isn't great for horses due to the slick texture of the boards and Eric suggested anti-slip composite decking. Dereck said the snowmobile club would be interested in the project and the committee highlighted prior efforts of the ATV club improving the crossing years back. Lawrence stated the High School gates need to be complete before more grants are sought. (ix) Monica

highlighted an exposed culvert on the RT past the Lebanon town line. Members believe the culvert is on Mousam Way Land Trust property.

C. Volunteer Hours: 27 hours for February

4) Old Business

A. Rail Trail Grant: Hopefully STS will be interested in the \$15K project from Hanson's Ridge to Carpenter's Crossing (that company restored the RT from Main St. to Hanson Ridge last year). Motion by Sam and seconded by AI and Dollie to send Rail Trail work from Hanson Ridge to Carpenter's Crossing out to bid. Unanimously approved.

5) New Business

A. Upcoming Projects: Hazen is exploring a paved walkway at Haven Cove, a new bridge by Stanley Rd, and reviving the previously discussed bridge connecting the Veterans Cemetery to Mousam Way North. Dereck thought the project would improve both the trails and cemetery. Sam indicated priorities should be the Rail Trail, crosswalks, annual maintenance and Mousam Way by Pleasant Rd. Dollie supports crosswalks, Carpenter's Crossing, Mousam Way and Haven Cove. Thom wants to focus on the Rail Trail. Eric said The Leap draws tourists and investment in the area might help keep the trash and bottles to a minimum during the summer. Lawrence indicated support for the RT, crosswalks, and smaller projects.

B. Lawrence is now the president of the Historical Society and will need more help on certain tasks. Sam will be collecting volunteer hours and AI offered to reach out to the new owners of the property by Rt 4 to discuss a recreational easement.

C. American Sweetgum Tree: Kevin McKeon offered to make a plaque for the champion tree along Number One Pond near the Armory. The PDF of the champion certificate is a little blurry when enlarged due to the resolution of the image.

D. Project Canopy: Brady doesn't think the committee will have projects that align with Project Canopy's grant criteria but Lee working with Public Works might be able to get an umbrella grant for the city along with the Trails Committee and Mousam Way Land Trust.

E. Rhododendron Reserve: 3 Rivers Land Trust turned in their RTP grant application. Trails funding for the project to be likely paid next fiscal year.

6) Closing Remarks: Work order forms to be filled out and sent to Brady before work occurs/supplies purchased. ME Trails Bond LD 1156- talk to your legislator and voice support. Upcoming trash pickups were mentioned including an Earth Day cleanup organized by Great Bay. Katie will represent both the Trails Committee and CMP at an upcoming Emerald Ash Borer conference in Alfred.

7) Adjournment: Motion by Hazen and seconded by AI to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:30

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary