

SANFORD TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, August 17, 2026
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Attendees. Forest Nohr, Sam Parady, Melanie Coombs, Brady Lloyd, Dereck Bourque, Dave Parent, Tiffani Bourque, Lee Burdette, Hazen Carpenter, Thom Gagne, Steven Schneider, Monica Mckenna, Al Pollard.

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Sam Parady.

Approval of the July 20, 2026 Minutes.

- Hazen Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes. Al Pollard seconded the motion to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

- Brady Lloyd presented the financial report.
 - It was reported that there was no change in the report from July with the exception that the funds donated by Dolly Hutchins estate have rolled into the regular funds.
 - Sam noted that a portion of the funds are earmarked for a project being led by Tiffani. Hazen asked for a confirmation of the amount contributed by the City.

Committee Reports

- Communications/Outreach (Melanie)
 - Melanie reported that she would like to follow-up on an idea to host a talk about the American Chestnut Tree.
- *Construction/Maintenance - Hazen
 - Haven Cove Discussion. Topics included:
 - The letter sent to the administration of Haven Cove
 - New design echoing the former design
 - Signage and fencing
 - Path along the parking lot
 - Funds spent over \$10k will need Council approval
 - Bridge to the small island
 - YMCA signage Discussion. Topics included:
 - Need to improve signage in the YMCA area
 - Suggestions for improved signage
 - Hazen requested a volunteer to walk the area with him
 - Deering Pond and brush clearing at gates. Discussion. Topics included:

- Hazen requested setting a date to keep the project moving forward
 - The drainage ditch near Deering Pond needs to be cleared
 - Dates for potential work parties
 - Forest offered the use of his ditch clearer
- Hanson's Ridge Meeting would take place on Saturday, September 29th at 8:00 a.m.
- Volunteer Hours & Planning Board - Sam
 - There were 76 volunteer hours, Hazen added an additional 7 and Lee an additional 39
 - There were not updates regarding the planning board
- City Relations - Brady
 - City Council Meeting. Sam, Lee, Hazen, etc. met with City officials to discuss plans for further clean-ups.
 - There is a plan to reach out to the Clean Air and Water group and the Trash Force for assistance.
 - Brady requested action to move forward with CJL and Gowen Park plans.
 - It is a difficult site to reach, so there is hope for permission from the armory to access the area.
 - The roll off dumpster needs to be procured, there is reluctance because of concerns for needle waste at the previous clean-up.
 - Discussion. Complications of the site include, marsh area, lack of access and heavy materials to clear. It was determined to coordinate when an official date was in place.
 - Discussion. Forest explained the details of the Carl J. Lamb site, the exact location and whether Noria would be supportive of the clean-up efforts by allowing a dumpster. Whether the encampment was on Noria property or City property.
 - Discussion. Best dates for the activities and whether bugs and water will hamper efforts.

Old Business

- Haven Cove (topic covered during Construction/Maintenance)
- Brush Clearing on Trailheads (topic covered during Construction/Maintenance)
- ME Trails Bond Application/ Trails Master Plan
 - Lee explained that there were fewer applicants than anticipated for the grant, which is good news.
 - Trails Master Plan. Lee shared notes of the meeting with the Trails Committee, including a sign brainstorming session.
- Gowen Park/City Council meeting overview (discussed earlier in the meeting)

New Business

- Local Designer for Trails Logo - Dave

- Dave reached out to the Arts Commission and has a contact who will look at signage. Hazen shared the history of the sign design and his firm resolution that they should not be changed. Discussion. There was a conversation about melding the logos from MWLT and Sanford Trails to provide a more unified look on the trails. Sam, Brady, Hazen shared differing thoughts and concerns.
- Girl Scouts Project Involvement - Dereck
 - Local Girl Scouts have reached out to see how they can volunteer to assist with the Trails. Brady suggested he be the contact person since he has an overview of potential projects for children.
- Aug 21st Bridges Zoom - Lee
 - Discussion. There was a lengthy discussion about the potential bridge to the birding ponds near the sewer department. The project has potential support from designers and builders making the project feasible, but the Audubon Society is against the project. They feel it would bring traffic that could disrupt bird behavior. Lee, Dereck, Steve, Thom discussed the ramifications of site location, current support and the Audubon Society's feelings. Concerns would be best brought up by upcoming site visits. There is also a Zoom meeting regarding the bridge.
 - Discussion. The plan to eventually connect to the Eastern Trail was brought up and briefly discussed. The eventual DOT plan runs along Jagger Mill road, while the birding pond would be a spur trail.
- Hickory Trees - Lee
 - Lee is working closely with Three Rivers Land Trust to create a pocket forest of hickory trees. They will be growing close to the rail trail so he would like permission to plant them in this location. Discussion. The canopy size, hickory nuts, and forestry professionals were all discussed. Several members requested a site visit.
 - Motion. Hazen made a motion to grant permission for Three Rivers Land Trust (Lee) to plant within 45 feet of the Rail Trail. With the insight from Bud Johnson and professional guidance from forestry professionals involved. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Social media survey - Sam for Meghan
 - Meghan has created a survey to gather feedback from the citizenry and trail users. Sam offered suggestions and additions.
 - Motion. A motion was made by Dave to approve the use of the survey. Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Indian's Last Leap - Forest
 - Forest did a clean-up of the area near Indian's Last Leap. He added a trash can to facilitate pick-up of refuse and he will regularly check it.
 - Discussion. Topics discussed included, adding a sign that says under surveillance, the need for more monitoring of the area, chaining the trash can, adding a game cam to the area, making sure signage is welcoming and prohibitive.
 - Motion. Lee made a motion to approve Forest's trial of a trash can at Indian's Last Leap. Al seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Forest will add a chain to the trash can.
- Jagger Apartments
 - There was a brief discussion about installation of trail related art to the apartments common spaces. The Historical Society would love to support this project,

Misc. projects/priorities

- Hazen suggested setting priorities for the upcoming year.
- Lee said we should have funding for the necessary brush cleaning from Hanson's Ridge to Carpenter's Crossing.
- Sam suggested making these items on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Thom at 8:53 p.m. Dave seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Taylor Coombs,
Sanford Trails Committee Secretary