

Sanford Trails Committee Meeting  
Monday January 23, 2023

Members Present: Dollie Hutchins, Lawrence Furbish, Brady Lloyd, Jeff Wells, Thom Gagne, Hazen Carpenter, Dave Parent, Al Pollard, Kevin McKeon, Sam Parady

Guest: Dianne Connolly

Katie Manende Hall had an excused absence.

Meeting began at 7:01

1) Election of 2023 Officers. Lawrence Furbish: Chair, Hazen Carpenter: Vice Chair, Sam Parady: Secretary. Motion by Thom to elect the aforementioned candidates, seconded by Dollie. Unanimously approved.

2) Approval of the minutes from the December 19, 2022 meeting. Single change is the inclusion of Jeff's attendance. Motion by Al and seconded by Jeff to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

3) Financial report: Trails CIP - \$1,224.57 paid to HA Stone to move the School St. fence. \$1,700 paid to Bull Pine Tree Service for one day of trimming along the Rail Trail. CIP balance is \$21,311.98. Special revenue account is \$5301.29 with the addition of an online donation of \$250. Brady requested an annual budget of \$25,000 for the Trails Committee. The increase (+\$5,000) keeps pace with rates of outside contractors. The City Manager, Financial Director and City Council will review. Hazen noted H.A. Stone was able to move the fence \$1,500 below estimate and said a thank-you card would be good. Jeff encouraged us to request additional funds for the Rail Trail if it remains non-motorized in the future.

4) Committee Reports:

A. Communication/Outreach - Katie: Katie emailed in to report an increasing number of social media followers for a total of 2,282 Facebook likes and 466 Instagram followers.

B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen:

1. Additional contract work to the School St. project will wait until Spring.
2. Rail Trail Tree trim - not quite all the way to Carpenter's Crossing which would have been ideal.
3. A truck broke through the wooden rail along Hanson Ridge Road; Brady noted City departments were handling the insurance situation to cover the damage.
4. The Rail Trail has been well-trafficked with lots of cars parked at trailheads. Kevin noted the numerous walkers while Lawrence talked to and saw numerous bicyclists. Thom's friend wrote to the city about their positive experience and the committee encouraged anyone to provide feedback to Brady.

C. Volunteer hours - Lawrence: 50 hours for December

D. City Relations - Sam: City Council held a team-building workshop which included a discussion about the Rail Trail on January 10th. Hazen spoke about the Rail Trail during public comment on January 3rd. Lawrence mentioned the Property Management Subcommittee suggested changes to the Trails Committee Bylaws.

5) Old Business:

- A. Farm Trail: Snow-Goers attempted to haul in material but the ground was too soft and damage occurred to the hayfield. They will wait for the ground to freeze and must check with the landowner before doing more work. Some base-layer fabric was installed and improvements were made to a nearby culvert.
- B. High School Loop: The project may proceed to open bids based on Permit-by-Rule. As this trail already exists as a footpath, it is essentially renovation and maintenance rather than new construction. Lawrence mentioned Andre Brousseau from the Sewer District wrote in to support the project with a request to be mindful along their easement of keeping sewer covers exposed above the new gravel. Dave highlighted the bureaucratic efficiency of reclassifying any partially existing trail for new projects.
- C. Leap Bridge: Hazen noted Permit-by-Rule applies to the Leap bridge as well. To be discussed at a later date.
- D. Beaver Deceiver: Dollie and Sam observed the area behind the Beaver Deceiver and saw additional dams and beaver activity near the trail.
- E. Signs: Hazen and Lawrence installed signs communicating the new ordinance regarding motorized use along the Rail Trail. Existing multi-use signs with ATV symbols will not be altered at this time but will be addressed in the future.
- F. Breton Ave trailhead: Dollie suggested creating an inviting alcove for the bench to keep it from looking out of place. Lawrence said grass seed and brush clearing should improve the area.
- G. Trails Committee Annual Report: Lawrence submitted the report to the municipal administration.

6) New Business:

- A. Bylaws: Two changes provided by the Property Management Subcommittee were discussed. Confusion regarding "resident vs. registered voter" distinction and surprise that people from other towns are potentially eligible for the committee. Brady will confirm with Lorisa Ricketts the exact verbiage. Al said language in Article 8 which refers to the Committee as a 'club' should be changed.
- B. Rt 4 Bridge: While the path along the Western shore is very clear at first, it soon becomes overgrown before opening back up where potential bridges could go. Alternatively, the trail could begin on the other shore and proceed to Gavel Rd. Lawrence emphasized the importance of connecting Sanford to the Eastern Trail. Rt. 4 to the Birding Ponds is a major step towards that goal. Thom mentioned a Simpson easement would be needed on the western shore, while Hazen suggested a diagonal walkway beneath the bridge. Dollie highlighted the additional need for official connectivity between the High School Loop and Route 4.

- C. Rail Trail Proposal from Hazen: Members provided feedback on proposal to make Rail Trail into an official city park. Dave was surprised the trail isn't a park already, wasn't sure if the proposal would solve the ATV issue and asked what would change. Brady posited the park might need its own budget. Al said changing the trail to a park might be confusing. Jeff suggested holding off on any change until the ATV issue is solved. Thom asked if the change would limit the Trails Committee from obtaining grants for the trail. Sam supported the greenway but wants a separate, official ATV trail somewhere else and requested the circulation of a potential ATV route. Jeff advocated for rebuilding the trail to an ideal standard to show how it could look and doesn't think the ATV issue is going away. Dollie was leery of improving the trail only to have ATV access restored. Lawrence said right now isn't the best time to push for this change and that we should advocate for the trails but be realistic. Hazen spoke in favor of the proposal and Dollie supported the greenway with a separate ATV trail.
- D. Trails webpage: Lawrence mentioned the need to fix broken links on the website and to improve the general look with help from Brady and Jordan Wilson.
- E. Dog walk on Rail Trail: Lawrence wasn't sure how desirable large numbers of dogs would be. Alternate suggestions included 5k/10k races or winter events. Brady noted time and volunteers would be needed. Jeff said the trail would need to be groomed for any winter sports. Al mentioned similar prior events ceased due to low participation.
- F. River St: Matt Hill reported there will be reduced separation between the bike path and the road under new regulations along River St. and the esplanade.
- G. Trail Counter: Lawrence contacted a club in New Hampshire that recently purchased and installed a digital trail counter. Hung in a tree, the device uses motion to gather information about the number of trail users. Each unit is priced around \$2,500. Feedback on effectiveness of the device will be provided.

7) Meeting time: An informal straw poll showed a majority of members were in favor of keeping the 7pm meeting time.

8) Adjournment: Motion by Al and seconded by Thom to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:40

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary