

Sanford Trails Committee Meeting  
Monday February 27, 2023

Members Present: Dollie Hutchins, Lawrence Furbish, Kevin McKeon, Al Pollard, Katie Manende-Hall, Hazen Carpenter, Thom Gagne, Jeff Wells, Sam Parady

Guest: Lee Burnett

Dave Parent and Brady Lloyd had excused absences.

Meeting began at 7:03

1) Approval of the minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting. Motion by Kevin and seconded by Al to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial report: Trails CIP - \$49.80 paid to Springvale Hardware. CIP balance is \$21,260.18. Special revenue account is \$5301.29. Lawrence spoke of updating the financial report to include dates for each expenditure and clarifying the current total of Trail Project Obligations for the next meeting. Last tally of obligations totaled \$28,028 but that figure includes the already paid for School St. fence and Rail Trail tree trim projects. Update to follow. Unpaid obligations include the High School Loop, additional work to the School St. trailhead, and the Snow-Goers' Farm Trail.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach - Katie: Good activity on social media, with increasing followers on Instagram (491) and likes on Facebook (2282). Recent posts have been shared by local online newspapers.
- B. City Relations: Lawrence spoke during public comment on February 7th and presented the Trails Committee Annual Report to City Council on February 21st. The council then approved Bylaws changes which included the attendance policy and the requirement of members to be qualified voters in Sanford.
- C. Volunteer hours - Lawrence: 55 hours for January (reminder: monthly meetings count)
- D. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen:
  - 1. Brush was cleared near Carpenter's Crossing.
  - 2. Bid status of the High School Loop- Brady will address upon return
  - 3. Estimated cost of Leap bridge- Material for the abutments, including gravel to connect to the nearby cemetery road, would cost roughly \$15-17 thousand. The price of the 16 foot bridge would depend on the design (wood vs steel etc) and labor costs would vary depending on volunteer/contract. More details to be discussed at the next meeting. Jeff asked if Parks and Rec UTVs could access the Leap for maintenance or safety situations using the existing Stanley Rd trail.
  - 4. Set clear priorities regarding the projects we want to fund going forward. Discuss and decide where to allocate resources considering the budget, prior obligations and proposals which have been discussed for some time.

#### 4) Old Business:

- A. Middle School bike path connector: Lee summarized the history of the planning process and emphasized the safety issue where the sidewalk ends before reaching the school. Municipal departments have alternatively supported and opposed various plans. Without funding the Woodard and Curran design, Lee suggested that partners be found to advocate for the connector (e.g. PTA, School Committee, Cycle Sanford) in a positive way. Thom agreed and said the project ought to be handled by a neutral entity and mentioned the Safe Streets Initiative as a potential funding source. Lee noted the ME Dept. of Transportation is coming out with a similar Safe Streets for All grant and Jeff said the City Council or another department should handle the issue.
- B. Trail Counter: Lawrence provided an update on Parker Mountain Trails' (Littleton, NH) Trafx trail counter. The \$2500 device was effective in counting 1500 trail users throughout the month of January. Obtaining concrete data related to the number of Sanford trail users may be helpful in presenting information and deciding where to allocate resources. Jeff and Lee described lower priced game cameras which could be used for similar purposes. Al mentioned counters being used in Bar Harbor and suggested Julie Isbill as a potential consultant on the matter.

#### 5) New Business:

- A. Community Forest to Rhododendron Reserve: The proposed route was surveyed and found to be entirely on the Porter's property (recreational easement is secure for the whole trail). Conflicting information about the shape of the property led to increased surveying costs. Lee asked the committee to consider assisting Three Rivers Land Trust with an additional \$1,400 contribution. Hazen suggested delaying the decision until project priorities are determined, while Kevin supported funding immediately because of the easement and willingness of Three Rivers to contribute more. Dollie mentioned the under-budget School St fence provides room to fund. Jeff wasn't sure if the number of potential trail users merits the increased cost. Motion by Thom and seconded by Kevin to support Three Rivers Land Trust and pledge \$1,400 for the surveying. Katie, Sam, Thom, Dollie, Kevin and Al voted in favor of the motion. Hazen and Jeff abstained. Motion passed.
- B. Rt. 4 Bridge, Birding Ponds & Eastern Trail Spur: Lawrence and Brady have been in communication with the City Manager and Public Works about how best to engage with the ME Dept. of Transportation to design the bridge with the trail in mind. City Manager Buck encouraged communicating to DOT as a single Sanford entity, with all departments and committees speaking with one voice. Matt Hill indicated it was unlikely DOT would widen the road beyond the bridge (towards Alfred) and suggested the River Trail follow the sewer line on the Western shore before crossing near the Birding Ponds. Andre Brousseau and the Sewer District are still supportive of moving the fence for a trail but where the crossing would be is still in question. Thom suggested several crossing sites, including near the pumping station and closer to Jagger Mill. Hazen requested more subcommittee meetings on the issue, while Lawrence highlighted the important

Browning property easement to connect with the High School Loop and Webster Trail. Lee requested Cycle Sanford be included in the various projects.

- C. Rail Trail Work: Consider using City equipment to grade and compact worn out sections of the Rail Trail at low cost. This could be an opportunity for Public Works employees to be trained and/or practice certain machines. Material from the outer edge of the trail would be grated towards the center and then compacted. No fill would be brought in. Lawrence suggested testing the effectiveness of this method in specific areas (e.g. sandy area beyond Hanson Ridge towards Carpenter's Crossing) and Hazen detailed the ideal way to fix the trail (grade, doze, compact, fill, grade, compact).
- D. Trails webpage: Lawrence spoke of the need to make the website more inviting and noticed it features the older version of the trails system map. Hazen and Lee indicated CommunityGIS likely has the new digital copy. City Manager Buck gave feedback on 21 February to improve search engine optimization and make it easier to find all the trails in one place. Lawrence will work with Brady and Jordan Wilson to improve the visual and technical aspects of the site (input from others welcome).
- E. Lee's Trail Maintenance Offer: Lee Burnett has offered to personally monitor and improve certain areas of the trail system by landscaping, training on heavy machinery, and picking up trash. Concerning liability, Lee is insured through his affiliation with Cycle Sanford, but we need to be mindful of city liability when other volunteers are involved.
- F. Healthy Living Expo: An upcoming event at the YMCA on 7 June 2023, the Healthy Living Expo focuses on providing information to seniors about local health and wellness services and groups. The trails committee is happy to donate tee-shirts to the door-prize.
- G. CMP Transmission work: Katie explained CMP is planning to work on a section of the transmission line near Stanley Rd. Don't be alarmed if there is equipment and activity nearby- the work shouldn't impact the trailhead itself.
- H. Leash law: Lawrence reviewed Sanford's leash law which pertains to the trails: "If your dog is off your property, it must be controlled by a leash of not more than 8 feet in length at all times".

6) Closing remarks: None at this time.

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

Meeting ended at 8:45

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary