

Sanford Trails Committee  
Monday April 17, 2023

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

Brady Lloyd, Dave Parent and Al Pollard had excused absences.

Meeting began at 7:10

1) Approval of the Minutes from the March 20, 2023 meeting. One correction: Dollie Hutchins was missing from the members present list. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Kevin to accept the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial report: Trails CIP balance is \$21,262. Special revenue is \$5301. Current obligations total \$25,952. Administratively, one issue has been discovered regarding Matt Landry's gravel work around the Armory last year. He is still listed as encumbered with no record of payment, however Hazen indicated that Matt Landry said directly he had already been paid.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach - Katie: 2283 likes on Facebook and 503 followers on Instagram. Katie is volunteering to coordinate the installation of a plaque for the Maine Champion American Sweetgum tree along William Oscar Emery Drive. Lawrence asked if any photos from Facebook could be used for the Trails website and Katie said there could be some to choose from.
- B. City Relations - Sam: On Thursday 6 April, Lawrence updated the committee with a message from Brady indicating the City Council approved the Trails Committee \$25,000 annual budget request for fiscal year 2024. Sam had a brief but pleasant conversation with former Mayor and current Representative Mastraccio who was very encouraging of making the Rail Trail into an official city park.
- C. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen:
  - 1. The School St. project is nearly complete as S.D.S. has concluded their work. There is still some sort of barrier needed around the culverts, however due to the proximity to the road a wooden rail isn't safe for drivers. Shrubs and boulders were discussed, but both options have serious drawbacks and aren't ideal.
  - 2. Hazen asked if the committee was ready to go ahead with striping Marginal Way. Agreement was reached about proceeding with a single line 6 feet from the western side of the road with the trails logo intermittently placed. Thom mentioned budget flexibility beyond the \$2,000 already approved and Lawrence said he would notify the committee if the increase was more than a few hundred dollars. Hazen will reach out to Kaz's Fine Lines to begin the work.
  - 3. No updates on Haven Cove, however Sam pointed out areas that would quickly deteriorate after applying gravel due to the snow plowing.

4. Breton Ave- a fence is needed to address the dog waste in the neighbor's yard. Hazen suggested a low decorative fence and Kevin said the design should be within the family's liking and our budget.
- D. Volunteer hours: 52 hours for March

#### 4) Old Business:

- A. High School Loop: Ongoing interdepartmental conversations about the extent of fabric and type of gravel for this trail but once decided the project will soon go out to bid.
- B. Trail Counters: Dollie presented her thorough research into potential trail counting systems. Eastern Trail Executive Director Jon Kachmar provided a lot of information. They use Miovision and Eco-Counters. Miovision is primarily for auto traffic but does have trail options. 3-5K plus processing fees. Telephone pole mounted. Expensive monthly cost. Eco-Counters differentiate types of users with ground-contact sensors and laser beams. 3-6K for one unit. Dave Harkness of Littleton NH Bike & Fitness described the 3.5K TrafX counter- mounted on a tree or post with clamps and tape, it is fairly difficult to set up though he would show/advise how to do it. Dollie also explored different hunting camera options which are affordable but require manual retrieval and observation to get any data. Such cameras would be more prone to theft as well. Dollie concluded that based on the high costs that it might not be in our immediate budget to purchase a trail counting device. Kevin, Hazen and Thom talked about different places on the Rail Trail that would be effective spots for trail counting. Katie suggested keeping the device well hidden.
- C. Birding Ponds: Lawrence walked the trail along the Birding Ponds with David Stone. The project would be of a large scale due to the length of the fence and the amount of trees and brush that need trimming or removal. Partnering with the Sewer District would likely be necessary to fully fund the moving of the fence.
- D. Trails website will soon be updated with the newest digital map.
- E. Farm Trail: Jim Roux communicated that work on this snowmobile trail will commence once the ground is firm in the summer.
- F. Rt 4 Bridge: Brady and Matt Hill have been in communication with ME DOT about the status of this project. A pedestrian underpass has not been completely ruled out and the timeline for the rebuilding of the bridge could happen sooner than previously thought.

#### 5) New Business:

- A. McKeon Reserve: Repairing the stream crossing to the McKeon Reserve has been previously discussed. Trails Committee funds to be matched by Mousam Way Land Trust. Motion by Sam and seconded by Thom to spend \$250 on riverstone for the ford. Unanimously approved.
- B. Crosswalks: Communications ongoing with Matt Hill about regulations and ME DOT applications for crosswalks on the Rail Trail. More information to come.
- C. Maintenance budget: Lawrence suggested a systematic evaluation of the trails for maintenance. Volunteers can take pictures of needed repairs in different areas. Dollie mentioned erosion along Spartan Dr. and Sam mentioned the path near Village View in Springvale. Lawrence described several spots along Mousam Way South.

- D. The Rail Trail: Hazen encouraged the committee to vote in favor of the Rail Trail being incorporated into the city's linear park system. Hazen had a positive conversation with Mayor Brink and Deputy Mayor Herlihy who were encouraging of the idea. Lawrence indicated Brady was also OK with the potential change. Katie confirmed that the new policy would make the trail permanently non-motorized and Dollie inquired if city leadership was supportive of the non-motorized implications. The committee discussed and determined if such rules would allow E-Bikes (yes). Kevin spoke in favor of the proposal and the timing, and Sam asked Hazen if city leadership felt there was a good chance of success on the Council. The Rail Trail would be in the same category as Gowen Park, Soldiers and Sailors Park and Goodall Park with similar rules. ATVs could be allowed at the discretion of the Director of Parks and Rec from The Depot to Shaw's Ridge. Hazen said he could finalize some of the language. Motion by Thom and seconded by Kevin- "Move to request the City of Sanford designate the Rail Trail as a City Park under the direction and management of the Department of Parks and Recreation. To preserve and protect forever, this could be **Rail Road Park: Sanford-Springvale Greenway & Mousam Way Trail**". Unanimously approved.
- E. Membership: Lawrence highlighted open slots on the committee and welcomed new members that could attend the meetings in an informal fashion before the next round of Council applications.
- F. Mousam Way North: Discussion about the unknown timeline for the CMP transmission work. Brady can contact Katie about their project if need be. Nearby, Hazen suggested that the \$5,000 special reserve account could be used towards a bridge to the Veterans Cemetary with \$6,000 from the Kiwanis Club.

6) Closing remarks: None at this time.

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

Meeting ended at 8:30

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary