

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday May 15, 2023

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

Guest: Lee Burnett

Meeting began at 7:04

1) Approval of the Minutes from the April 17, 2023 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Thom to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial report: CIP balance is \$14,642.18. \$6,626 paid on 26 April to STS Construction for the School St. parking lot of Mousam Way South. Special revenue account is \$5,301.29. Current obligations total \$18,707 and include the High School Loop (\$5840), Beaver Deceiver (\$2800), Snowmobile trail (\$2500), Marginal Way striping (\$2000), and the Rhododendron Reserve (\$5607) to be paid over multiple fiscal years.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach - Katie: Correspondence received from a local trail user about the possibility of creating a small business offering monthly paid scavenger hunts on various Sanford trails. Fun idea but numerous questions about the logistics of such a service being on public/private land etc.
- B. City Relations - Sam: Hazen, Lawrence and Brady presented the Rail Trail Park proposal to the City Operations & Property Subcommittee on May 9th. Lawrence summarized the Trails Committee's vote to change the Rail Trail into a linear park. Hazen read the proposal and outlined the history and development of the current trail. Deputy Mayor Herlihy favored the proposal and Councilor Hanselmann supported bringing the idea to the council level but wasn't sure it would pass. Mayor Brink thought a majority of residents would like a park and expressed optimism that the proposal would pass. Lee Burnett was also present and spoke in favor of the city investing more resources into bringing the trail up to standard and developing a vision for it. Hazen estimated up to \$200,000 would be needed for the full project. Annual repairs would be a few thousand in grading costs. Mayor Brink and City Manager Buck both encouraged the Trails Committee to research grant opportunities (under the American Infrastructure Act) but said the project is relatively simple despite the scope. They agreed the proposal would be discussed at the council level around November. Additionally, Lawrence pointed out the City Council will be formally voting to remove Jeff Wells and Al Alexandre from the Committee at their next meeting.
- C. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen:
 - 1. School St: Public Works has voiced traffic safety concerns about a fence or boulders around the culvert being by the road, Matt Hill to consult with the City engineer to find a potential solution.

2. Marginal Way: Kaz's Fine Lines will be in town soon to look at the proposed road striping area & provide timetable for the work
3. High School Loop: no update, the project should be going out to bid soon.
4. Stanley Rd: With construction activity near the transmission lines, Hazen encouraged communication with CMP in order to have their heavy equipment spread excavated earth from the site down to the trail leading towards the Leap. Katie has requested updates from the department overseeing the project. New material over the trail can also cover some of the broken glass near the trailhead.

D. Volunteer hours: 45 hours for April

4) Old Business:

- A. McKeon Reserve: Slight change in river crossing/Rail Trail connection requiring multiple smaller culverts and increased cost. Kevin and Hazen discussed the changing flow of the stream by the Rail Trail over the years and the impact of storms and beavers. Total cost would now be \$900 to be shared with Mousam Way Land Trust. Motion by Sam and seconded by Dollie to increase funds by \$206 for a total of \$456 to the project. Unanimously approved. Kevin abstained.
- B. Birding Ponds: Lawrence walked the site with HA Stone. The Sewer District has begun to clear trees and brush around some of the fencing, but the size of the route and the amount of fencing to be moved is quite substantial. HA Stone estimated \$86,000 for the job. This project will likely be on the back burner until a funding source is determined, potentially shared with the Sewer District. Lee noted that while the cost might be large, it is not unreasonable for the amount of trail that would be created. The current fence is not in good condition.
- C. Rhododendron Reserve: Lee explained the surveying is now complete for the new trail. A 30' easement and 6' trail has been mapped out entirely on the Porter's property. Lee is securing a grant through the ME Office of Outdoor Recreation for the project. Lee is also working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Growth Council to develop an updated trails map for tourists.
- D. Rail Trail: Lee said the municipal matched grant for the High School Loop must be paid before Rail Trail grants could be obtained. The Department of Parks and Recreation wouldn't be able to work on a grant until autumn. Lee suggested other partners could help including the Rail Trail Conservancy. General agreement about the need to restore the Rail Trail up to standard. Thom suggested working on the area by Deering Pond, while others mentioned Hanson Ridge to Carpenter's Crossing. Main to Oak St needs attention and could be a smaller sized project. Al spoke of the need for photographic examples of the trail improving or degrading over time. No formal agreement at this time about where to restore first.

5) New Business:

- A. Nasson Dorms: Lawrence (and anyone interested) is going to meet with the Greenmars developers on May 17 to see their proposed trail connection to the Rail Trail. The old dorms near the trail are being restored into apartments with walking and mountain bike trails around the complex.

- B. Breton Ave: Brady to meet with the neighboring landowner about the needed brush clearance and their installation of a fence to reduce dog waste in the yard. The Trails Committee is slated to fund the brush removal.
- C. Rail Trail Crosswalk signs: Lawrence sent out an email to get feedback on asphalt instead of concrete for the River St. connector (no objection) and installing crosswalk signs along Oak and Hanson Ridge Rds. Matt Hill has the contractors lined up this summer but the project would cost \$3,000. No motion to move ahead with the project at this time due to cost concerns and the unknown future status of the Rail Trail.
- D. Maintenance: Several trails were evaluated for maintenance issues. Lawrence identified erosion along the bike path of Mousam Way South in addition to some downed trees which need to be cleared. Dollie noticed erosion along Spartan Drive while Sam found bare gravel spots and a broken light along Kiwanis Mousam Way. The trailhead by Village View is currently obscured by tree branches. There is a large poison ivy patch along Mousam Way North. Hazen suggested Spray Technologies as a potential local company to address the ivy.

6) Closing Remarks: None at this time.

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

Meeting ended at 8:35

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary