

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday January 22, 2024

Members Present: Eric St. Onge, Brady Lloyd, Dollie Hutchins, Lawrence Furbish, Thom Gagne, Al Pollard, Hazen Carpenter, Katie Manende-Hall, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Sam Parady

Meeting began at 6:58

1) Approval of the minutes from the December 26, 2023 meeting. Dollie mentioned the correct meeting day as Tuesday and noted her excused absence. Lawrence highlighted \$200 from the Trails Committee had been allocated for the sign at William Oscar Emery Drive. Motion by Al and seconded by Thom to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

2) 2024 Officers Election: At the last meeting Lawrence, Hazen and Sam were nominated as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Trails Committee for 2024. The committee unanimously approves the aforementioned officers.

3) The committee welcomed new members Eric St. Onge and Melanie Taylor Coombs. Each member of the committee provided an introduction regarding their involvement and interest with the trails.

4) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$11,603.30. \$200 was paid to Pelle Graphic and Design for the William Oscar Emery Drive sign. \$200 went to Matt Landry for the Stanley Rd parking lot restoration. Special reserve account is \$5,856.29. \$1,850 (obtained by Lee Burnett through a grant) was paid to Pelle Graphic and Design for the W.O.E. sign.

5) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Katie is requesting another person take the role of managing the Trails Facebook and Instagram. Posting content and responding to questions are the primary responsibilities involved.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) Three additional loads of gravel were delivered to the W.O.E. trailhead. Volunteers from Great Bay Services helped Lee spread the material. While more gravel might be needed in the Spring to smooth out the steep edges, the kiosk looks very good. The committee thanks Great Bay and the wonderful volunteers for helping with the project. (ii) Hazen cleared out some ditches by Deering Pond to help with drainage (iii) Rail Trail gates: waiting on a price from Robbie Bodwell. It might be easiest to hire out the work. (iv) High School gates: Hazen met with Adam Hartford who teaches the welding program. Posts which would keep the gates partially open with a three foot gap were discussed. Unsure of material costs. Adam is interested in helping with the project.
- C. Volunteer hours: 17 hours for December

6) Old Business:

- A. Lawrence circulated detailed plans from Lee of the Oak Street area trail system including the Rhododendron Reserve. The nearly 3000 foot trail to the rhododendron stand is estimated to cost \$70,750 by Caribou Recreation Development. The path would be suitable for walking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. Project partners include Three Rivers Land Trust, Native Plant Trust and the Sanford Trails Committee. Brady asked if the total estimate includes the surveying cost.
- B. R.T.P grant: Brady emailed the state coordinator and was informed the high school gates need to be completely finished before another grant can be obtained. The second September application deadline, however, was moved to June. Lawrence indicated 15 March (the first deadline) would be too soon given the state agency letters and organizational requirements. The Rail Trail R.T.P grant application will most likely be done in June.

7) New Business:

- A. Annual Report: Lawrence sent out his 2023 Trails Annual Report which will be delivered to City Council on February 6th. Lawrence will speak and provide a slide show. Thom was complimentary and thankful and Hazen offered to send photos of the School St parking lot for the presentation.
- B. Rt. 4 Connector Trail: Lawrence spoke with the new owner of the property with the sewer easement between the high school and Rt. 4. The owner indicated part of the land might once again be sold. Thom explained the bridge/trail crossing and Al mentioned it was odd for the recreational easement not to be included with the sewer access.
- C. Annual Budget: Hazen and Katie stressed the importance of having enough funds for fixed maintenance costs. Brady will request \$30,000 for the next fiscal year but the committee should plan for \$25,000. Hazen highlighted Kiwanis matching funds for projects along the Mousam Way. Dollie mentioned more trail development means more maintenance expenditures. Hazen proposed the following set aside for maintenance: \$2,000 for brush and tree removal, \$1,000 for mowing and weeds, \$3,000 for signs and gates, and \$5,000 for general repairs. Motion by Al and seconded by Thom to use Hazen's maintenance budget as a framework for the 2024 annual budget. Unanimously approved.
- D. 2024 Priorities: General consensus was reached to address the crosswalks along part of the Rail Trail including the crossings at Oak St and Hanson Ridge Rd. The Mousam Way trail in Springvale needs work. Dollie said the committee should reach out to the Sevignys regarding their trail project. The Farm Trail and Haven Cove were also discussed.

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

Meeting ended at 8:32

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary