

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday January 27, 2025

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

Guest Monica McKenna was also in attendance.

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Approval of the minutes from the December 16, 2024 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dollie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) The committee welcomes its newest member: Steve Schneider, an avid trail user and bicyclist.

3) Election of Officers: Motion by Al and seconded by Katie to elect for one year Lawrence Furbish as Chairman, Hazen Carpenter as Vice Chair, and Sam Parady as Secretary of the Sanford/Springvale Trails Development and Urban Forestry Committee. Brady Lloyd is by default the Treasurer. Unanimously approved.

4) Financial Report - Brady: The CIP account totals \$9,354.16 after paying \$2,500 to the Snowmobile Club and \$225 for historic signs. The special revenue account totals \$10,616.29 including monies set aside for Rail Trail crossings in Springvale (\$3000 Pence grant). No more encumbered Rail Trail funds. Brady requested \$30,000 for next fiscal year.

5) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Melanie and Katie are posting 2-3 times per week on social media and the photographs/content look fantastic. Melanie created a slideshow which was presented at the volunteer gathering at River Junction. The slideshow focused on outreach and maintenance and went over all the projects this past year.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) No word yet from Bull Pine regarding the timeframe for clearing downed limbs and debris from the side of the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Oak St. This will likely take two days with the concentration of work being from Deering Pond to Oak St. (ii) RT gates have been opened for the snowmobiles (iii) ~\$500 to repair Mousam Way South near Emery St boardwalk. This will be done in Spring. (iv) ~\$200 for boards to make Carpenter's Crossing easier for bicycles. Fast and Happy volunteered their labor. (v) New signage will be needed for Rail Trail/survey entrances with our sign subcommittee. (vi) Lots of Rail Trail use all times of day (vii) Permission granted to move the trail sign near the High School.
- C. Volunteer hours: 41 hours since last meeting
- D. Brady stepped up to head the City Relations subcommittee as Sam formally declined to continue.

6) Old Business:

- A. R.T.P. grant in process of being reimbursed to the city as everything has been sent in regarding the High School Loop. Soon the committee will be able to apply for future grants from this program.
- B. The 2nd meeting concentrating on updating the Trails Master Plan will be on Monday 3 February. The meeting will be at 6pm in the City Hall conference room.
- C. Reporting non-authorized motorized use is encouraged via police dispatch. Provide dispatch the location and cite Detective Everett Allen's interest.
- D. The ME Access Points Syringe Access Program might have a slideshow/presentation about the issue and proper disposal protocol of needles. If 20+ needles are found in one location on the trails ME Access Points have offered to collect them.

7) New Business:

- A. ME voters approved a 30 million dollar trails bond. The state is not fully ready to release funds but Lawrence and Brady are working to get ready. They will be also looking at R.T.P. grant opportunities. Hazen and Melanie will volunteer to help as well.
- B. Land near Powers Bridge/Rt 4 is for sale. This is a vital trail crossing for future expansion to the Birding Ponds and eventually to the Eastern Trail. The parcel could be divided and will be surveyed in March. The current "trail" is over the existing sewer easement. Development would be limited close to the river. A recreational easement would be ideal in that location.
- C. Committee discussed creating a new Rail Trail connection near the Yorkshire condos. The trail route near Witham St is paved, confusing and not well marked. Hazen has long advocated for a footbridge. The director of Codes and Planning could be of assistance in terms of advising future plans.
- D. Lawrence is preparing the Trails Committee Annual Report to the City Council.
- E. Great Bay Community Services will be presenting their Duck Box project to the City Council on 18 February. Katie volunteered to help choose ideal locations for these structures near vibrant duck habitats.
- F. Future plans including formal Rail Trail Greenway Park ordinances, crosswalks, gate painting, Mousam Way South Boardwalk were discussed.
- G. Hazen announced Kiwanis will be giving \$6,000 to restore the entrance/trail to the Leap from Stanley Rd. This will allow for a turnaround closer to the swimming hole in case of emergencies. Dollie suggested getting more grants and Brady encouraged Hazen to create a full quote for the project.

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

Meeting ended at 8:20

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary