

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday February 24, 2025

Members Present: Dereck Bourque, Hazen Carpenter, Dollie Hutchins, Eric St Onge, Steve Schnieder, Lawrence Furbish, Brady Lloyd, Dave Parent, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Sam Parady

Guests: Lee Burnett, Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:04

1) Approval of the minutes from the January 25, 2025 meeting. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Hazen to approve the minutes as presented.

2) Financial Report - Brady: (i) Signage has been added to the Rail Trail parking lot at Railroad Avenue to reduce vehicles staying there overnight or blocking the trail. Vehicles have been more common after the winter parking ban and a large truck near the lumber yard was across the trail at the back part of the lot. \$100 was spent. (ii) CIP total is \$9,254.43. The special revenue account is \$10,616.29. (iii) Lawrence highlighted projects that have been voted on and yet to be paid- \$4000 to the Rhododendron Reserve (unlikely to be paid this fiscal year), \$5-600 for the Mousam Way South boardwalk, \$200 for Carpenter's Crossing, and an estimated \$4000 for Bull Pine to spend another 2 days clearing the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Oak and then Main St. Other projects include \$1000 for updated signs around the trails system and \$400 for the recent volunteer gathering/meal with Three Rivers and Mousam Way Land Trusts. Moving the High School trail sign will also require funds.

3) Motion by Lawrence and seconded by Sam to contribute \$400 to the volunteer appreciation event last month. The cost of the event would be split three ways with Mousam Way and Three Rivers Land Trust. Unanimously approved.

4) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach - Melanie: the collaboration with Katie has been working well. Melanie has been creating great content and Katie has been posting and responding to comments. Some citizens took issue with a recent post about winter trail etiquette (encouraging walkers/snowshoers not to trample ski trails etc).
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: S.T.S. quoted \$14,430 to refurbish the entrance to the Leap coming in from the Stanley Rd parking lot. This would include a turnaround area for emergency vehicles closer to the swimming area. Kiwanis has roughly \$4000 to contribute towards the project. Other grants might be delayed but these Kiwanis dollars could be spent immediately.
- C. City Relations - Brady: On February 8th, Great Bay Community Services presented two duck boxes to Sanford City Council for installation on/near the trails. (ii) Lawrence has finished the 2024 Trails Annual Report and will present it to the council on 4 March. Melanie sent Lawrence the slideshow she created to help.
- D. Volunteer hours: 47.5 since last meeting

5) Old Business:

- A. Updated Trails Master Plan: Lee highlighted the next in-person meeting on March 10th.
- B. The committee discussed future grant opportunities and uncertain federal funding. Consensus was reached to determine the next large project whether or not federal grants are available. Brady suggested a large project like the Birding Ponds fence/connecting trail for the ME trails bond. R.T.P. grants should be sought as well.
- C. Rt 4: Jamie from Codes Enforcement suggested top dressing the sewer easement to improve the route for potential trail users. Brady spoke with the Sewer Department and they had no issue with that idea as long as the manhole covers remain accessible.
- D. Rail Trail Crossing Main St: Jamie also indicated that seeking an easement from Sherwin Williams and the adjacent two landowners is the most efficient way to connect and improve the two segments of Rail Trail nearby. Hazen has proposed creating a new path between Sherwin Williams and Yorkshire Commons condos but this will likely require many more moving parts.
- E. Project Priorities: The committee discussed how to proceed over the next year. The Rt 4 sewer easement, Carpenter's Crossing to Lebanon Rail Trail, The Leap and Birding Ponds are the most important projects. Each project would greatly benefit the trails system.

6) New Business:

- A. Water Trail: Interest has once again bubbled up in relation to creating a canoe/kayak trail along the Mousam. Hazen suggested concentrating on the river area between the Mills and Rt 4 as parts of the waterway further down are filled with fallen trees. Lee, Steve, Dereck and Melanie all expressed enthusiasm for improving the river for passage this coming season. Dave highlighted no heavy equipment can be used but hand/chainsaws are likely permitted.
- B. Lee mentioned Three River Land Trust might be asking for a letter in support of a grant to remove invasive stiltgrass from the Community Forest. A connecting route to the Rail Trail has been closed due to the unwelcome plant.
- C. Melanie, Steve, Dave and Monica volunteered to locate the site of a historic train crash along the Rail Trail near the Lebanon line/Sugar Hill. Metal detectors would be required. Some grammatical improvements might also be made to the existing Rail Trail kiosk closer to Deering Pond.

7) Adjournment: Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dereck to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:35

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary