

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday February 26, 2024

Members Present: Melanie Taylor Coombs, Shalimar Jilliana DeBusk, Brady Lloyd, Thom Gagne, Lawrence Furbish, Eric St. Onge, Dereck Bourque, Katie Manende-Hall, Al Pollard, Dave Parent, Sam Parady

Dollie Hutchins had an excused absence.

Guests: Matt Hill, Jason Ready, Lee Burnett

Meeting began at 7:00

1) The committee welcomed new members Shalimar Jilliana DeBusk and Dereck Bourque.

2) Approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting. Motion by Thom and seconded by Lawrence to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

3) Financial Report: CIP balance is \$11,524.70. Special revenue account is \$20,856.29 after a \$15,000 addition from the William Oscar Emery Trust for improving the Rail Trail. The committee thanks Lawrence for his work applying to this grant. The new funds are considered encumbered. Other encumbered projects include \$600 for the High School Loop gates, \$2,000 for Rail Trail gates, \$2,500 for the snowmobile Farm Trail and \$5,567 for the Rhododendron Reserve trail (\$1,400 for surveying to be paid first). \$5,800 is accessible from the Kiwanis Club for projects along Mousam Way.

4) Safe Streets for All: The SS4A program is a federal \$5 billion grant to be appropriated in 2022-2026 to help reduce roadway fatalities and injuries. Action plans which focus on community projects and strategies to improve roadway safety are supported by the funds. Sanford Public Works Director Matt Hill and fellow Jason Ready presented an overview of their department's work in identifying the 10 most fatal areas of Sanford's roads. Other criteria include poverty, pollution, health, weather, housing, and education. The department is exploring demonstration grant opportunities and was looking for input from the Trails Committee. Members highlighted lack of bike lanes throughout downtown, unplowed sidewalks in winter, Oak St/Hanson Ridge, Main St crossing issues (Gowen Park, Hannaford) and unpainted stop lines on the traffic circle near William Oscar Emery Drive.

5) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach: Melanie Taylor Coombs is stepping up to take the reins of the Trails Committee social media presence and also specializes in community outreach. She is going to help with posting content and will work with Katie to exchange log-in information.
- B. City Relations: Lawrence presented the Trails Committee Annual Report to the City Council on 6 February and indicated the report was warmly received. Jim Roux of the

snowmobile club sought permission to install gates on city property adjacent to the airport on 20 February. The council voted unanimously to approve the gates.

C. Volunteer hours: 33 hours in January.

6) Old Business:

- A. Rail Trail Gates: Lawrence said Hazen is acquiring materials.
- B. High School Gates: Adam Hartford is getting a cost estimate for a student-led redesign of the gates which would allow pedestrians to pass. The gates would stay as they are and left partially open in the middle with a high bar passing over the top connecting the two sides. Hazen reviewed the design and thought it would work. Regarding the concrete pillars left near the trail, the school facilities department will move them in the spring.

7) New Business:

- A. Rhododendron Support Letter: Lawrence drafted a letter to the Outdoor Recreation Supervisor in Augusta on behalf of the entire Sanford Trails Committee urging support for the Native Plant Trust's application for Recreational Trails Program to build a connector trail from the Sanford Community Forest to the Harvey Butler Rhododendron Reserve. Lawrence's letter outlines the scope of the project/its benefits and will help Native Plant Trust in their grant approval process. Motion by AI and seconded by Eric to approve the letter as presented. Unanimously approved. Lee will locate an invoice for Brady to pay the surveying costs.
- B. Sanford's Big Trees/Project Canopy: The state champion American Sweetgum along Number One Pond was discussed. Katie volunteered to mark the tree and highlighted the state certificate. Other large trees in Sanford including Atlantic White Cedars were mentioned. Brady and Lee are attending the Project Canopy grant meeting. The grant funds the planting of trees and the preparation of soil sites on city property/recreational easements. The trees must be resistant to invasive pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer. The High School environment club is participating in the TreePlentish program which distributes 50-100 trees in May.

8) Closing Remarks: The committee talked about the trail along the Mousam on the former Browning Property near Rt 4. Lawrence encouraged members to write an article for Sanford Springvale News about a favorite trail. Entries should include $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ pages of text with a few photographs.

9) Adjournment: Motion by AI and seconded by Sam to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:27

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary