

SANFORD TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, February 23, 2026
Postponed from February 16, 2026
Regular meeting via Zoom

Call to order

- Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

Attendees. Lawrence Furbish, Melanie Coombs, Dereck Bourque. Brady Lloyd, Forest Nohr, Sam Parady, Tiffany Bourque, Meghan Titcomb, Steven Schneider, Thom Gagne, Lee Burdette, Hazen Carpenter, Al Pollard. Dave Parent excused.

Approval of the February 2, 2026 minutes.

- Minutes were not available to all at the time of the meeting. Will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Financial Report

- Brady Lloyd presented the financial report which has not changed since the last meeting.
- As an aside Sam brought up a message Melanie received via Facebook about a business on Emery Street. There was a discussion by Brady, Sam, Lawrence and Dereck about the Sanford Police Department response. Dereck suggested No Loitering signs.

Committee Reports

- Communications/Outreach - Melanie
 - Melanie said social media was going well.
- Construction/Maintenance
 - Hazen had not joined the meeting yet.
 - There was a discussion of a sign that had been replaced which seems to be the 2023 sign. It had been shot at, but there was no plan to replace it.
- Volunteer Hours
 - There were 40 volunteer hours.

Old Business

- B. Trails Master Plan Update- Cobb Stadium sign inventory, ME Trail Bond grant
 - Lee gave an update on the last Trail Master Plan meeting.
 - Sign inventory. Walkthrough of all segments of the trails.
 - Maine Trail Bond monies are a once in a lifetime opportunity. All trail committee members should have gotten a document outlining prospective projects.

- The bond is looking to major trail upgrades covering safety, connectivity and trails to destinations.
- The document should be reviewed to assess which projects fall within the bond guidelines.
- Forrest works at CJL and discussed the trail access in that area. Safety concerns (needles, ATVs, unhoused individuals in that area). Would like to see if that trail could be reviewed for student use. Lee offered that the land is owned by the city.
- Sam mentioned that there are many trails that need to be updated and improved so we should identify the biggest needs for the bond.

Committee Report (return to previous agenda item)

- Construction/Maintenance- Hazen
- Hazen has joined the meeting so the agenda returned to the construction committee report.
 - Signs are currently underway.
 - Expansion of the Hanson's Ridge / Deering Pond parking area.
 - Rail Trail Greenway adoption. Sam followed up by asking Brady about the ordinance process. Establishing rules, etc.

Old Business (return to subsequent agenda item)

- A. Hazen's maintenance list/Spring projects/Leap trail expansion
 - Sam's question to Hazen. Are there spring projects that need to be done?
 - Repair gates, signage, locks, parking, grating, etc. Feels there is a total of \$12,700 annual maintenance.
 - Expansion future expansion ideas to be covered at a later date.
- C. Jagger Mill DOT/Birding Ponds Connection
 - Steve said the birding pond connection would be expensive. Lee followed up that there are too many issues to get the bridge access completed by June including owner permissions and the physical bridge.
 - Lee suggested a formal motion be made to continue pursuing this project. Including:
 - Confirming support with MWLT and Kruger Energy.
 - Securing a commitment with Dave Nickerson to fabricate the bridge before Dave retires in the near future.
 - Extensive discussion followed with an overview of the project for new members. Including location, support and the importance of access to the birding pond.
 - Lee made a formal motion seconded by Steve. The motion as follows:
 - "The Sanford Trail committee supports the creation of a trail to the birding ponds, a parking area and a bridge and to work with Kruger Energy and the Mousam Way Land Trust on the project."
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Trail Sponsorship program

- Discussion. Hazen asked to table the topic. Lee thought there was a previous vote. Steve read the full explanation. Melanie read from the previous meeting's minutes. Meghan supports the idea of financial support adjacent to the idea.
- Motion to table this topic by Hazen. Thom seconded the motion. Topic tabled.
- E. Collaboration with land trusts- parking area, updated map, trail counter, recognition letter
 - Sam thanked Lee for the slide show and Volunteer Appreciation gathering on February 28, 2026.
 - On April 24 & 25 there will be a trail work event at the Community Forest and the McKeon Preserve.
 - June 1st there will be a Trail Event with more details to come.

New Business

- A. City Manager Approval of Letter to Yorkshire Condos
 - Steve Buck will sign off on the letter to the condos.
 - Sam showed the letter for all to read.
- B. Communicating to Public Works about parking improvements along Hanson Ridge Road
 - Lee reached out to Matt Hill regarding parking on Hanson's Ridge. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 3 p.m. at the Hanson's Ridge Trailhead. Brief discussion of in person via Zoom, preference to meet in person on site.
- C. February 28, 2026 Trails Volunteer Appreciation Event (please see notes under Old Business).
- Nasson Building Development near the Rail Trail Greenway.
 - Discussion. There is a development going into the old Nasson dorm buildings. Lee would like to see a formal spur trail there. Discussion included the difference between a bootleg trail and a spur trail. The danger of offshoot trails. Whether parking would be allowed at the complex for trail user parking. Whether there is adequate access to the area for bike riders and walkers coming from nearby.
 - Lee will be at the meeting in person. He has permission to speak on behalf of the committee.
 - Sam thanked everyone for a great discussion.
- Trail Bond application.
 - Lee provided an overview of the bond. He has a great deal of experience writing grants and would like to formally pursue the funds.
 - This is a 30 million bond for trail support.
 - The first year MWLT, Three Rivers and others applied and were not funded. This year is likely to be less competitive and that projects could be lumped together.
 - Discussion. There was extensive discussion about potential projects.
 - Safety (Hanson's Ridge parking)
 - Connectivity (Yorkshire, Brandon Aiken lands, HS area, Rail trail, etc.)

- Parking in Lebanon and Shaw's Ridge Improve trail network (signage, surfaces)
- Trails to destinations (birding pond)
- Other ideas, 2 mile loop between Springvale cemeteries, sloping project near boardwalk on High Street, Island Avenue extension, mill building redevelopment foot traffic.
- Further discussion on potential funding.
 - It was suggested that Lee focus on projects that are likely to get funded and questions were asked and answered about the potential amount, \$250,000.
- Discussion about other projects.
 - Increasing usage may discourage greater use by the unhoused.
 - An overall larger trail that loops entirely around the city.
 - Shaw's Ridge as a destination and cleaning up that section of trail with access to CJL.
 - Gathering better foot traffic numbers, discussion of using potential funds from Dollie Hutchins estate to fund Flock Cameras.
 - Schools being considered a destination/focal point.
 - Lee mentioned the recent Cobb Stadium meetings and the potential of increasing trails in that area.
 - It was decided to focus on the Rail Trail as a whole.
 - Motion. Thom made a motion to prioritize the grant on the rail trail, Forrest seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
 - Motion. Lee made a motion for the purchase of three cameras if the committee receives monies from the estate of Dollie Hutchins. Dereck seconded. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2026

Closing remarks

Adjournment

- Thom made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Melanie Taylor Coombs, Secretary