

Trail Committee Meeting

Monday March 16, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:03

Members present: Derek Bourque , Thom Gagne, Tiffany Bourque, Lawrence Furbish, Forrest Nohr, Meg Titcomb, Lee Burnertt, Steve Schnieder, Eric St.Onge, Hazen carpenter, Sam Parady, Al Pollard
Guests: Monica Mckinnon

Approval of the March 2, 2026 minutes: Motion by Hazen and seconded by Forrest. Unanimously approved

Financial Report: the report was presented and accepted.

Committee Reports:

- Communication and Outreach: Melanie was absent and Sam reported for her.
- Construction and Maintenance - Hazen:
 1. Time to go out and mount three frames and replace a few screws on the gates. Hazen to get a crew together.
 2. Logging off of the Rail Trail by Whites Logging is done. Hazen to contact Whites to have them shore up the trail.
 3. Sign Committee. This committee needs to meet and then report back to the whole committee.
 4. Hazen stated that we will have a few projects coming up when the weather improves.
 5. Deering Ridge Parking Lot - Hazen reported that on the 13th, members of the trail Committee met with Matt Hill and his assistant. Also present Jamie the planning director. Hazen to draw up the plans for then parking lot based on the discussion and input from the city reps. He has a letter and will have a site plan ready to submit to the Planning Board on the 17th.
- Volunteer Hours: Sam reported 44 hours up to the meeting.
- Planning Board: The Three Rivers Land trust is presenting a proposal for crossings and other improvements at the Community Forest to the Planning Board.

- Trail Connector from Rail trail to the former Nasson dorms. Lee went to the Planning board Meeting and presented a proposed trail from the upper parking lot to the Rail Trail. The Planning Board is in favor of such a plan.

Old Business:

- Outreach to the Veterans Cemetery: Hazen reported on his outreach to the Veterans cemetery. He called Jeff Poller who is in charge of the cemetery. Hazen explained what the committee would like to connect the Leap to the cemetery. Jeff expressed interest and is open to having people come to the cemetery. They are working on a long range plan for expanding to the Springvale Cemetery. Hazen asked if the Trail Committee could use the new roughed out road to link the two cemeteries until the Veterans Cemetery decides to put in a road between the two.
- Trail Master Plan:
 1. Outreach to Wallingford Property. Hazen talked to Harvey Wallingford. Waiting to talk to Brian Wallingford about putting in a trail at the Lebanon end of the Rail Trail so it could connect with Blanchard road.
 2. Trails Master Plan Meeting. Lee reported that at the meeting, he showed the various connectors and uses for them to be used in the ME Trails Bond Program.
 3. Yorkshire Commons: Sam presented a letter that he planned to send to the HOA requesting a meeting with them about routing the trail along the traditional rail bed. It was suggested to remove the preliminary map and let residents express their ideas. There was consensus that the letter was well crafted and should be sent as modified.
 4. Next Trails Master Plan Meeting: April 6th City Hall
 5. Sanford Trail Alliance Meeting: April 7th at then Sweet-Morin Homestead.

New Business:

- Meeting with Public Works re: Hansons Ridge Parking Lot. See notes above in the Committee Reports under Construction/Maintenance.
- Trail Traffic Counter: Sam requested someone to spearhead this project as to purchasing, determining placement etc. Sam also suggested that in addition trail counters we may also want some game cameras.

- Hazen suggested a trail counter at Hansons Ridge, Oak St. and School St. Al suggested at the High School. Sam suggested at the Leap. Tiffani volunteered to spearhead this project. There was much discussion of game cameras vs. trail counters and the best use of each.
- Emery St. Trail Closure: There is an extensive homeless encampment with much trash along the trail leading to the boardwalk from the Emery St. entrance. North East Coating has closed off the trail due to needle hazard and other problems. Looking to solve the problem, it seems best to leave it closed for now. Need help to clean up. The group discussed what we could do.
Forrest was concerned about using motorized equipment.
Steve talked about the encampment that the saw on both sides of the boardwalk.
Sam mentioned the repeat offenders and that the police have been involved.
Eric suggested a sign that states that loitering is trespassing and thus squatters are automatically trespassing.
Meg talked about how keeping the trail clean will help generate more traffic and automatically discourage squatting.
Steve mentioned how the surface of the MWS was uneven and if we improved it that might generate more traffic. He also talked about the homeless task force and their report.
Al suggested that we set up a clean up project for Earth Day April 22. The group decided that we would attempt a clean up on Sunday March 22, starting at the Emery St. entrance.

Next Meeting: Monday April 20th

Closing Remarks: Hazen stated that we need to prioritize what we want to accomplish.

Adjournment: Motion by Thom, seconded by Eric to adjourn.
Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:49

Respectfully submitted by Thom Gagne, substitute secretary