

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday March 17, 2025

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

Guests: Chris Schorn, Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:01

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 24, 2025 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dollie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved while Thom abstained.
2. The committee discussed the history and current situation regarding the High School to Route 4 connector trail on the sewer easement by the Mousam River. Dave pointed out the Sewer District technically has very limited authority on the easement. This discussion comes in the context of the Sewer District being open to having the easement regraded by the Trails Committee.
3. The Maine Coast Heritage Trust is interested in preserving land around the Mousam River. Chris Schorn is now the local director on the project. He will be coming to Sanford and visiting various sites including the aforementioned land near the Mousam in addition to others in the local (Mousam Way) Land Trust.
4.
 - A. Construction/Maintenance: (i) Hazen thanked Lawrence for presenting to City Council and writing an article in the Sanford Springvale News about the committee's 2024 accomplishments. (ii) The Snowmobile club had a short but good season: the Rail Trail gates are now closed. The Rail Trail was well groomed and maintained during the winter. (iii) Next meeting set up the Mousam Way South boardwalk project (iv) The sign committee will meet (Dollie, Thom & Hazen) on 20 March starting at the Hanson Ridge trail entrance.(v) Dollie asked about redoing the Rail Trail from Carpenter's Crossing to Lebanon. Hazen suggested having a local landowner remove some large pines that are close to the trail. Carpenter's Crossing prevents equipment from Hanson Ridge road, the construction would have to be done via Blanchard Rd. The connection to Lebanon would be a good large project for the Maine Trails Bond.
 - B. Volunteer hours: 25 since last meeting
5. Lawrence mentioned the City Council highlighted the following projects at the presentation: Carpenter's Crossing, Mousam Way South Boardwalk and the overgrown path by Public Works. Carpenter's Crossing is scheduled to be repaired by Lee Burnett and volunteers on April 19th.

6. The State is making plans for the Route 4 bridge pedestrian underpass. Lawrence, Matt Hill and Brady Lloyd are set to attend a local meeting. The state is also looking at expanding pedestrian connectors between Jagger Mill Rd and Main St due to the number of new people along Patriots Way. The project could include bike lanes and sidewalks. Lawrence drafted a letter to the planning board about the importance of the area as a key trail connector.
7. Crosswalks: Lawrence reached out to Matt Hill about improving visibility along Hanson Ridge and Oak St with the \$3,000 grant.
8. The covered sign installed by the Scouts on the Rail Trail near Deering Pond is a great landmark along the trail. It explains the history of the sunken railroad car which disappeared into the bog. The sign is going to be updated with improved detail.
9. Steve Schneider is planning on canoeing the Mousam River while potentially clearing some limbs and branches. Downed trees near Marginal Way were reported. Eric is drafting updated landowner agreements.
10. Adjournment: Motion by Thom and seconded by Melanie to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:37