

Sanford Trails Committee  
Monday April 22, 2024

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

Meeting began at 7:03

1) Approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2024 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Melanie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$8,279.70. Special reserve account is \$6,356.29 plus \$15,000.00 encumbered for the Rail Trail. The \$900 invoice from Robert Bodwell for the construction of the Rail Trail gates has been received. Surveying costs (\$1,400) for the Rhododendron Reserve connector trail have been paid to Three Rivers Land Trust. Other encumbered funds include \$45 to Burpee Signs for the champion American Sweetgum plaque and \$900 to the SRTC Welding Class for making the High School gates. Lee Burnett applied for a \$500 grant towards the William Oscar Emery trailhead kiosk. Sanford City Council has approved \$30,000.00 for the annual Trails Committee budget and the funds will be allocated on July 1, 2024.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Melanie posted on Instagram and is ready to roll on Facebook. Committee members are welcome to send along ideas and photographs and Katie will continue responding to comments and sharing content. Dave suggested guided walks on the trails including around Deering Pond and Mousam Way South by the High School. Melanie mentioned she led a 'Strengthen Your Mind and Body' walk on the trails by the YMCA and Gowen Park. The idea of a weekly 5k run along the Rail Trail was discussed. Brady suggested posting on the Sanford Parks and Rec website to register interested individuals and organize events.
- B. Construction/Maintenance:
  - a. The installation of the Rail Trail gates has been delayed due to the weather. No change in the status of the Hanson Ridge Rd fence.
  - b. Dereck volunteered to install additional top boards to improve the Carpenter's Crossing Bridge along the Rail Trail. Lawrence is happy to fill out a work order request form for the project. There are also 19 broken boards on the Mousam Way South boardwalk which were tallied by Al. Motion by Thom and seconded by Dave to spend up to \$1,500 on materials for Carpenter's Crossing and the Mousam Way South boardwalk. Unanimously approved.
  - c. Parts of the Rail Trail which are to be rehabilitated next need drainage while other spots need gravel. Hazen suggested bypassing the \$10,000.00 public bid by sectioning off smaller amounts of work and directly contracting Stuart Torno and Sons. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Melanie to spend \$9,925 from the

Payson Grant to directly hire S.T.S. to improve the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge towards Carpenter's Crossing. Unanimously approved. This motion amends the decision on the matter from the March 18, 2024 meeting.

- d. Water is backing up behind the new Beaver Deceiver. Fortunately the blockages are able to be dismantled without machinery but communication with Mousam Way Land Trust is required since the small dams are on their property.
  - e. Matt Hill from Public Works has indicated they will be able to install an official crosswalk on Oak Street for \$907.00. Motion by Thom and seconded by Dave to allocate \$907.00 for the creation of a crosswalk for the Rail Trail at Oak Street. Unanimously approved.
  - f. Other maintenance issues discussed were a missing sign at Mousam Way North by Springvale Riverside Cemetery and a guardrail along Marginal Way.
- C. Volunteer Hours: 68 volunteer hours for April plus 5 hours from Monica McKenna and Lee Burnett.

#### 4) Old Business:

- A. High School Gates: Fabrication has begun by the SRTC welding program and the installation will follow this upcoming week.
- B. Champion American Sweetgum tree plaque: Dave volunteered to use his software to improve the resolution of the image while Katie said she could reach out to Jan Santere for a higher quality version of the certificate.

#### 5) New Business:

- A. Storm Cleanup: Lawrence said he had never seen such a large volunteer effort on the trail. Various work parties helped clear Mousam Way South and the Rail Trail after heavy snow knocked down many trees. A big thank you towards all involved. Hazen and Dereck will survey the chopped logs to decide whether to hire Bull Pine to chip the material.

6) Closing Remarks: Future priorities beyond and including the Rail Trail were discussed- making an official Rail Trail park name/sign, improving the Leap, a new bridge to the Veterans Cemetery, a new Stanley Rd bridge, and improving the trail by Haven Cove. Lawrence also highlighted the Maine Trails Bond will be headed to the voters for approval on the November ballot.

7) Adjournment: Motion by Dave and seconded by Thom to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary.