

SANFORD TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Call to order

- Meeting began at 7:01 p.m.

Attendees. Lawrence Furbish, Melanie Coombs, Dereck Bourque. Brady Lloyd, Dave Parent, Sam Parady, Meghan Titcomb (joined at 7:45), Steven Schneider, Thom Gagne, Lee Burdette, Eric St. Onge, Hazen Carpenter, Al Pollard. Excused, Forest Nohr, Tiffany Bourque.

Introductory words from Sam while people were joining the meeting.

Approval of the minutes

- Motion made by Steve Schneider to approve minutes from the previous meeting of the Sanford Trails Committee. Seconded by Dereck Bourque.
- Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.

Financial Report

- Brady Lloyd presented the financial report.
 - Since January \$1900 has been allocated to Burpee Signs.
 - CIP has a balance of \$8834, Sam explained that roughly \$4700 is unencumbered and \$4167 is encumbered to the rhododendron project.
 - The donation from Dolly Hutchin's estate is anticipated but currently on hold. Once completed, \$8768 is expected.
 - There is \$12721.44 in special revenue.
 - Update from Sam is that Tiffany is exploring trail counters.
 - The amount requested from the City of Sanford is \$35,000.
 - Discussion. The Pence Grant of \$3000 that has not been spent. There was discussion about whether the funds need to be returned to the grantor. Brady will look back at previous emails to see if the \$3000 needs to be returned.

Committee Reports

- Communications/Outreach (Melanie)
 - There was an uptick in social media interactions regarding the Mousam Way South clean-up.
 - Discussion. There was an extended conversation about issues related to the clean-up in the area.
 - Need for social media posts regarding the closed footpath.
 - Communication with the original donors to explain closure of the trail.
 - Issuance of criminal trespass in areas that are off limits.

- Reaching out to Dave Lee, Manager of Northeast Coating to discuss the current situation post clean-up efforts.
 - Difficulties related to the land not being owned by the City,
 - The need to continue communicating with stakeholders.
 - Further clean-up efforts.
- Construction/Maintenance (Hazen)
 - Gate signage is almost complete; there are two brackets to be installed. Hazen thanked those who have been involved in the project.
 - Rail trail post logging. Hazen will be meeting with the logging company to make sure the area has been restored to previous standards.
 - Hazen submitted a plan for a rail trail parking lot on Hanson's Ridge. He has been told that there will need to be a more extensive site review and he does not want to handle the follow-up.
 - Discussion of two potential projects Hazen would like to see put forward:
 - Veteran's Cemetery. To provide public access from other areas of the trail. Topics discussed include, national standards for veteran's cemeteries, including prohibitions of pets, bikes, etc.
 - Haven Cove. To improve the area for better access. Topics included recent social media posts about graffiti at the Leap and how to remove it from the rocks.
- Volunteer Hours (Sam)
 - There were 103.25 volunteer hours last month.
- City Relations (Brady)
 - There will be discussion at the next planning board meeting that will cover the idea of a trail from the Nasson Condos and a link for the Community Forest.
 - Brady explained a need for more staffing as green spaces expand. There is a need to maintain the areas added. Discussion. Specific needs are two full-time employees to water and mow in the William Oscar Emery Drive area. Committee members would like to show support to Brady and Parks & Rec.

Old Business

- Emery Street Cleanup
 - 2nd volunteer day, boardwalk repair needed. Currently three main boards and two side boards are needed. Sam will assess.
- Master Trail Plan (Lee Burdette)
 - Trail bond grant application needs letters of support and a budget.
 - The deadline is 6/26, Sam suggested a meeting to assist.
 - Lee suggested putting multiple projects into the application.
- Sanford Trail Alliance (Sam)
 - 3RLT and MWT have some big projects coming up.

- Earth day clean-ups
- Community Forest native plantings

New Business

- Call with Randy Gibbs – recreational trail in South Sanford
 - Discussion. In the area near the proposed AI data center off Eagle Drive there would be an opportunity to expand trails along the Mousam River.
 - There is a potential moratorium that has not been formalized or acted upon by City Council.
 - Sam spoke about land fragmentation.
- Bridges of York County Meeting
 - Discussion. Bridge across the Mousam in the birding pond and implications associated with the Sewer Department.
 - Thom, Lee, Steven, Dave discussed security concerns for the Sewer Department. Parking issues associated with trail and bridge access. Access to areas when the plant is closed. Potential bridge locations, two suggested. A walk through with Andre Brusso from the SSD.
 - Generosity from two sources regarding bridge construction and siting. Sebago Technics will design the bridge and Dave Nickerson will fabricate.
- Hazen Meeting with Jeff Poole/Veterans Cemetery (see previous under committee reports)
- New Business
 - Meghan met with City Councilors and offered to be a contact person from the Sanford Trails. Positive outreach.
 - Deering Pond is experiencing the construction of another beaver dam that is starting to cause water rise. Discussion about water height, culvert concerns, beaver deceiver.
 - Mousam Way South trash in the High School area.
 - YMCA Healthy Living Expo will be Wednesday June 10th from 10-12. Volunteers are needed to share a table with 3RLT and MWT.
 - YMCA trail clean-up
 - Lee. There is a new trail about railroad history near Deering Pond with an original granite mile post. Six posts are located in the community and Haze had helped to secure one from Dan Boivin.
 - Three Rivers Land Trust is encouraging other trail organizations to organize an event for National Trails Day.
- Spring Maintenance Projects
 - Ideas include:
 - Keep in mind the future plan to eventually connect to the Eastern Trail (Lawrence).
 - It is important to keep current trails safe and maintained. (Hazen)
 - River Trail needs to be maintained. Al & Steven.

- Leap area needs clean-up and graffiti removal. Discussion. Best way to remove graffiti (Dereck).
- Need for a small guardrail on Emery Street near the entrance (Eric). Discussion about the location, need and Sewer Department easement in the vicinity.
- Portsmouth Seacoast Greenway (Dave). Suggested committee members check out the expansion and development of this trail. Noted excellent parking, unique environment and beauty of the trail.
- Clean-up supplies, programming and need for continued outreach with the Sanford Trash Force (Melanie).
- Trash barrels in key areas (Dereck). Discussion with Brady about the need for staff to empty trash and clean areas where receptacles are placed.
- Loop trail around the city (Meghan). Discussion of possible trails that could be used as a loop.
- Haven Cove (Sam). Discussion about this area that has been in need of support and might be a primary goal for maintenance projects. Encouraged all to come prepared to the next meeting with further ideas.
- Riverbank Court area. Discussion included painting lines to get the area looking better and a fence along Riverbank Court.

Motion to adjourn made by Brady. Seconded by Thom. Unanimous vote. Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Taylor Coombs,
Sanford Trails Committee Secretary