

Sanford Trails Committee  
Monday April 28, 2025

Members Present: Hazen Carpenter, Steve Schneider, Dollie Hutchins, Lawrence Furbish, Brady Lloyd, Dereck Bourque, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Eric St. Onge, Dave Parent, Sam Parady

Guest: Lee Burnett

Meeting began at 7:01

1) Approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2025 meeting. Lawrence specified he wrote a letter to the planning board regarding the trail behind Sherwin Williams not Route 4. In addition to visibility, Lawrence reached out to Matt Hill to improve the signage and crosswalks along Hanson Ridge and Oak Street. Motion by Steve and seconded by Dereck to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: Expenditures include signage for the Railroad Avenue trail entrance to prevent overnight parking and gravel for the new High School sign. CIP totals \$8,175.30 and the Special Revenue account stands at \$10,216.29. Bull Pine will be increasing their rate to \$1,800 per day.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach: A recent post about improvements to Carpenter's Crossing and the new High School sign generated positive community engagement.
- B. Construction/Maintenance: (i) Bull Pine will be working next week to clear downed trees along the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Oak and Main St. (ii) Matt Landry and Pepin helped Hazen install the new High School Loop trail entrance sign (iii) Improvements were made with the help of Fat & Happy bicycle volunteers to Carpenter's Crossing (iv) Mousam Way South boardwalk needs attention and is the priority for next weekend volunteer effort (v) 2 new historic signs are ready to be installed (vi) Matt Landry would be the best contractor to address the invasive plants along Mousam Way South near Public Works (vii) Signage and maintenance remain important priorities
- C. City Relations: (i) Letters were sent out to land owning abutters of the Rt 4 pedestrian underpass bridge/trail project. (ii) Lawrence suggested creating a liaison to the Planning Board so projects including trails can be incentivized. Sam volunteered to review the planning board documents
- D. Volunteer hours: 52 since last meeting

4) Old Business

- A. The Trails Master Plan group is making slow and steady progress on the revision. Next meeting 6 May. Lee hopes to create a new map of proposed future projects.

- B. Sewer Line/Rt 4 Easements: Low chances of creating a trail on Gavel owned land. A volunteer is needed to personally follow up with nearby landowners to gauge their interest in allowing a recreational easement.
- C. Land Owner Agreements: Eric crafted a document granting permission for the trails committee to refurbish and use the connecting trail behind Sherwin Williams and some houses near Witham St. The manager of the Sherwin Williams property is open to the agreement. Brady will send the new document to the city's Codes department.
- D. Water Trail: Steve cleared the Mousam River from School St to Estes Lake. The committee is thankful for this tremendous work. The project took 22 hours to clear all logs and branches save for one section near the Birding Ponds. This spot will be easier to clear when the water level is lower.
- E. Duck Houses: A weekday installation of the boxes (including help from Great Bay Community Services' clients) is being coordinated.

5) New Business:

- A. Eric, Steve, Hazen, Sam, Lawrence, and Dereck volunteered to fix the Mousam Way South boardwalk on 10 May pending no changes.
- B. Hazen will call Stone Fencing to fix a broken section of fence near the Hanson Ridge trail crossing.
- C. Lawrence noted that on the website AllTrails the various Sanford and Springvale trails are listed separately. Brady suggested the City's new Communications Coordinator might be able to assist in merging the two groups of results.
- D. Lawrence and Lee attended a local Eastern Trail meeting and discussed connections between Sanford and Wells. Lee said it would be helpful to find allies in Wells to pursue new trails and opportunities. Exploratory hikes would be great during the summer.
- E. Project Priorities for fiscal year 2025 were discussed. The committee decided to move forward with funding improvements from the Stanley Rd parking lot to the Leap per Hazen's plans. The Kiwanis Club would be contributing \$4,000 to the \$16,000 project. \$5,000 from the special revenue could also be used and lowering the cost from the annual budget even further. The area gets widely used and many members of the committee enjoy the Leap. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Eric to make the Roadway to Leap as the main project priority. Unanimously approved. Motion by Dereck and seconded by Dave to set aside \$5,000 specifically for maintenance in next year's budget. Unanimously approved. Motion by Dereck and seconded by Dollie to set aside \$2,500 to bring trail signage up to date. Unanimously approved.

6) Adjournment: Motion by Dereck and seconded by Sam to adjourn. All approved.

Meeting ended at 8:43

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary