

SANFORD TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, May 18, 2026
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Call to order

- Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

Attendees. Forest Nohr, Melanie Coombs, Hazen Carpenter, Brady Lloyd, Sam Parady, Dereck Bourque, Meghan Titcomb, Thom Gagne, Tiffany Bourque, Monica McKenna, Al Pollard. Excused Dave Parent and Lee Burdette.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sam Parady.

Approval of the minutes

- Motion made by Thom Gagne to approve minutes from the previous meeting of the Sanford Trails Committee. Seconded by Forrest Nohr.
- Motion carried unanimously. Minutes of the April 18, 2026 meeting approved.

Financial Report

- Brady Lloyd presented the financial report.
 - This month there was \$985.82 spent.
 - The CIP had \$7848.57 left in the account.
 - Special revenue was \$12,700.44.
 - It is likely that the contribution from the estate of Dolly Hutchins will soon clear.
 - The City of Sanford budget for FY 2026-2027 was approved with \$35,000 for the trails. The FY will begin on July 1, 2026.
 - Discussion. Trail counters. Tiffany has been working on information gathering. There may be a potential to work with MWLT's Steve Mallon on the project.

Committee Reports

- Communications/Outreach (Melanie)
 - Discussion. Sam saw a Blandings Turtle on the trail. It is a rare species and whether it would be good to publicize the sighting.
- Construction/Maintenance (Hazen)
 - Hazen has been watching the area near the brook by Deering Pond because of beaver activity. The beaver deceiver in the area is a mess and needs maintenance.
 - There is a carved Mousam Way sign that needs to be painted. Brief conversation to get a volunteer to assist with painting.

- Discussion. Sam noted that there are boards for the Emery Street Boardwalk that need replacement. Brady noted that the city must purchase the materials. Hazen and Dereck will follow-up to get the repair completed.
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- Volunteer Hours (Sam)
 - There were 67 volunteer hours last month.
 - Sam thanked everyone for their efforts.
- City Relations (Brady)
 - Sam updated the committee on a discussion with Ayn Hanselman regarding trash pick-up and frustrations. Ayn would like to see a committee to explore the trash issues.
 - Friends of Downtown is considering funding for updated maps. Sam discussed with Ayn the possibility of including all local trails from MWLT, 3RLT and the Sanford Trails.
 - Discussion. Sam expressed a goal to complete the clean-up in the Emery Street area. Brady expressed concern from the DEP is concerned about debris and piles near Stump Pond / Gowen Park. There are still people living in the Emery Street area behind the Public Works Garage. There are some residual encampments not directly on the trail. Need for signage indicating no camping or overnight visits. Brady explained there is an ordinance that may help with enforcement. Further discussion of Genest encampments on private/public property.
 - Thom expressed a need for more maps at the Y.
 - Discussion. Forrest mentioned a culvert that needs attention in the area and that undergrowth may hide the spread of the encampments. Sam suggested this as a new project. Forrest suggested there may be federal funding for this kind of work. Meg asked what the City's role is regarding keeping the trails clean. Brady explained they do their best to support the trails clean-up. Further discussion of making sure trash bags can be cleared. Needles should be placed in safe, new, plastic containers. Brady said everyone should wear PPE and use appropriate pickers and buckets. Sam said he has some supplies available.

Old Business

- Emery Street Cleanup (Sam)
 - Discussion. There is a need for more clean-up in the Emery Street area. Those that were available on the Saturday following the meeting agreed to volunteer (Forrest, Brady, Meg). Hazen was not available that day but agreed to use his truck for the efforts. Sam will follow-up with emails and contact Dave for NE Coating.
- Trails Master Plan
 - The previous meeting was lightly attended. The grant is due soon so Sam suggested we support Lee and attend if possible.

- Veteran's Cemetery
 - Sam sent Jeff Pooler an email to open discussion for initial steps to trail access.
- Haven Cove
 - Sam reached out to someone from Haven Cove to let them know we will be improving the trail nearby, he now has Condo Association information.
 - Discussion. Dereck discussed a new apartment complex in the same area. Dave and Dereck are going on a tour of the building and asked that this particular area be added to new business in the future. Forrest agreed and Sam noted the new fire station nearby.

New Business

- June 6th is National Trails Day
 - 3RLT will be at the Community Forest, MWLT will be at the McKeon Preserve and Sanford Trails would like to organize and meet and greet.
 - Discussion. Various outreach ideas were suggested. Plein air painting, scavenger hunt, etc.
 - There are parking concerns if the event takes place at the Deering Pond Trailhead. It was suggested to place signs at the top of each hill.
 - Discussion. New parking area on Hanson's Ridge Road. It is moving forward but the City would like Planning Board Approval and a site review. Perhaps touch base with Lee. Brady will assist as needed.
- Healthy Living Expo
 - Thursday, June 11th at the YMCA from 10 a.m. to noon.
 - Tiffany agreed to do the expo
- Ideas for future projects
 - Brush clearing, beaver dam at Deering Pond, Haven Cove (Hazen)
 - Trail events (Meg)
 - Park Run (Melanie)
 - 5K (Meg)
 - Bike Ride including small children (Thom)
 - Cycle Sanford, but the future is unknown (Brady, will chat with Lee)
 - Winter activities (Hazen, Brady said the winter fest would be done again in the future)
 - QR Codes along the trail (Melanie)
 - Pickleball Court near trails (Dereck) Brady noted the Gowen's Park courts are not open, but once the Carpentier Park project is complete things can be reconsidered. Brady also suggested stair access to the Gowen's Park courts from the lower parking area, not the space currently used by school staff.
 - Disc golf (Sam noted it is used)

- VOTE. A vote was held to use \$15,000 to improve the trails near Haven Cove. The motion was made by Hazen and seconded by Al. Motion carried.
 - The project will go out to bid.
- Closing statements we made by Sam regarding communication about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.
- VOTE. A vote was held to approve \$500 to remove graffiti. Dereck made the motion which was seconded by Forrest.
 - It was suggested to use Linus Pressure Washing and Brady will set up a vendor account for the project.

Motion to adjourn made by Derreck. Seconded by Thom. Unanimous vote. Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Taylor Coombs,
Sanford Trails Committee Secretary