

Sanford Trails Committee  
Monday May 19, 2025

Members Present: Dereck Bourque, Lawrence Furbish, Dollie Hutchins, Steve Schneider, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Eric St. Onge, Thom Gage, Hazen Carpenter, Sam Parady

Guests: Monica McKenna, Lee Burnett

Brady, Katie and Dave have excused absences.

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2025 meeting. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Eric to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Committee Reports:

- a. Communications/Outreach - Melanie has been coming up with a few ideas each time she goes for a walk and sends the information to Katie who coordinates the time and format of the posts. Teamwork is going well and the results have been great.
- b. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) Working with a local carpenter/volunteer to coordinate the rehabilitation of the Mousam Way South boardwalk and surrounding trail. The committee thanks this new volunteer for helping out with this project (ii) Several historic sign replacements for School St are ready and one new sign. (iii) Bull Pine is contracted to do work along the Rail Trail but Lawrence has been unable to reach them. Dereck suggested using the wood chips from the Rail Trail as trail material near Stanley Rd/The Leap.
- c. City Relations: (i) The IDC is developing 5 lots in the industrial park but there will be an opportunity to get permission for trails. The parties involved are open to the idea but connectivity to existing trails is lacking: a path going East/West towards Rt 99/Eastern Trail would be best.

3) Old Business

- a. Signage: Eric suggested a sign specifying no motorized dirt bikes for the Rail Trail. This led to a discussion regarding E-bikes and clarifying with Brady the official policy/speed limit. The committee reviewed Hazen's document with a complete list of suggestions. Motion by Thom and seconded by Melanie to adopt Hazen's sign suggestions as presented. Unanimously approved.
- b. The Rt 4 Bridge Underpass is at an impasse due to no firm trail surrounding the project. ME DOT and Sanford Public Works will be meeting to discuss the project. Lee and Lawrence are going to speak with nearby landowners on Jagger Mill.
- c. Former Browning Property: Maine Coast Heritage Trust is exploring the option to acquire the wetlands near the Sewer District easement, Mousam River and the high school.

- d. Water Trail: Some new downed trees resulting from beaver activity have been observed. There remain some large trees across the river by the Birding Ponds. These will be easier to remove when the water level is lower
- e. Duck Boxes: Location TBD. Finding a weekday to install with Great Bay will take time.

4) New Business:

- a. Healthy Living Expo will be held Wednesday June 11 at the YMCA. Thom, Dereck, and Al and Dereck volunteered to attend the event.
- b. Mousam Way South: replace boards, clear brush and clean up the washed up sandy trail connecting to it. 4-5 volunteers at the next available, non-rainy weekend.
- c. Eric will contact Stone Fencing about the broken fence at Hanson Ridge.
- d. Matt Landry can be utilized to clear the invasives along the fence by Public Works
- e. Gates: Hazen suggested sandblasting the Rail Trail gates (a hired out project). Thom to seek more information.
- f. Steve introduced the idea of offering families/estates the opportunity to dedicate a trail restoration project in memoriam to a passed loved one.

5) Adjournment. Motion by Dereck and seconded by Erick to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:37

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary