

SANFORD TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2026
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Call to order

- Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

Attendees. Forest Nohr, Meghan Titcomb (will join late), Sam Parady, Melanie Coombs, Brady Lloyd, Dereck Bourque, Dave Parent, Hazen Carpenter, Tiffani Bourque, Lee Burdette, Thom Gagne, Eric St. Onge, Special Guest Alex Clary, Kevin McKeon, SPD Chief Eric Small (guest later in the meeting).

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 Dereck Bourque.
- Motion carried unanimously. Minutes of the May 18, 2026 meeting approved.

Financial Report

- Brady Lloyd presented the financial report.
 - The CIP had \$7676.58 in the account.
 - Special revenue was \$12,721.44.
 - Expenditures were for screws and signage.
 - It is expected that the anticipated funds from Dollie Hutchins estate will be settled by the next meeting.
 - Sam noted that the graffiti removal via power washing went well and the area looks great.
 - Brief discussion on the grant which has \$15,000 toward Haven Cove and the need for matching funds yearly of \$13,500.
 - Funds will be allocated by the city on July 1, 2026.

Committee Reports

- Communications/Outreach (Melanie)
 - There have been limited social media posts, but Sam did post recently and all is going well.
- Volunteer Hours and Planning Board – Sam
 - There were 90 volunteer hours in May.
- Construction/Maintenance - Hazen

- Recently logged area off Rail Trail. The area has been fixed and Hazen asked Brady to confirm the area is satisfactorily repaired.
 - Boardwalk. Discussion of repairs done to the boardwalk. Hazen used boards already stored at his house to stabilize the boardwalk.. There are still some 2"x4"s needed for the edge. Brady will get some and have them available for Dave to pick-up. Dereck suggested purchasing 8 boards for repairs. Dave suggested sealing the boards periodically.
 - Hanson's Ridge. The entrance and areas near Deering Pond need weed whacking.
 - Signage. A volunteer is needed to review signage in the YMCA to Marginal Way area.
 - Haven Cove. Hazen has a plan from Brady and they will organize a presentation for Haven Cove.
 - Veteran's Cemetery. Hazen has not heard anything from the Cemetery representative, so he will follow-up.
 - Springvale Housing Authority area. There has been a clean-up with posted yellow signs and this has greatly improved the look of the area.
 - Trails Day Celebration. Sam and Hazen were at Hanson's Ridge entrance for the Trails Day Celebration. Hazen shared a photo of Ray Payeur who is 101 years old. Mr. Payeur shared information about a nearby Indian Burial Ground.
 - Two needs. Hazen mentioned a need for tree work near the farm trail, and feels he can take care of them.. Dereck noted a tree that needs removal by the Depot Trailhead.
- City Relations (Brady)
 - Updated Trail Maps. Sam is in communication with the Friends of Downtown. He hopes the relationship will lead to the development of new/updated trail maps.
 - Chief Small follow-up.
 - What can be done to prevent large scale clean-ups in the future?
 - What about needles?
 - Trail cameras near the Leap?
 - Sam is working to get feedback from citizens of Sanford.
 - Brady noted that there have not been too many calls about the need for trash pick-up and upkeep on the trails.
 - Sam will follow-up with Ayn Hanselmann who feels the trails are generally in good shape, with just a few hot spots.

Old Business

- Emery/Mousam Way South Reopen
 - Discussion. Sam fielded thoughts on reopening the Mousam Way South Trail after the clean-up efforts. He shared that Dave Lee has removed the No Trespassing signs, but that there were still a few areas where there are active

encampments. Thom asked about the spur trail and Sam mentioned a few things that still need to be done.

- Recap National Trails Day/YMCA Healthy Living
 - YMCA Healthy Living event. Tiffani attended the event on behalf of the Trails Committee and felt it was a wonderful event. Lawrence and Al were in attendance so she stayed about an hour.
 - Trail counters. Tiffani also shared that she followed-up with Steve Mallon regarding trail counters. The cost is \$2500 with one year of software and power. She was enthusiastic and felt it would be a good use of Dollie Hutchins funds. Lee mentioned contacting Daniel Hill from Three Rivers Land Trust for their insight into trail counters. Sam thanked Tiffani for her volunteer efforts.
- Trails Master Plan/ME Trails Bond Application
 - Discussion. Lee discussed the difficulty in obtaining quotes for potential work. Bull Pine said the work would be expensive due to the need to remove trees. Others suggested perhaps a logger would be willing to decrease costs by selling wood chips, etc. Dave, Hazen and Lee continued the conversation by discussing the potential of logging the area past Carpenter's Crossing toward Lebanon.
 - Lee shared a screen with cost estimates.
 - Lee feels that the rail trail would be a good focus for the following reasons:
 - 3,700 people live near the trails.
 - Businesses and destinations are nearby, for example, Shaw's Ridge and CJL.
 - The Rail Trail connects to other trails, Mousam Way, McKeon Preserve, Community Forest.
 - It has a unique experience, history, farming, Deering Pond, etc.
 - With stone dust the trails could be brought to universal standards.
 - Safety is increased with new parking areas.
 - Discussion of concerns. The trail toward Lebanon presents a dead end which may not be popular with the grantor. Hazen suggested bringing up archeological significance in the area. Brady questioned when the funds would be available and if the area near Hanson's Ridge could focus more significantly on the importance of the railroad. Thom brought up the possibility of access further on Blanchard Road and Dereck asked if snowmobiling extended past the trail end (answer is no). Sam suggested focusing on the area headed toward Shaw's Ridge.
 - Discussion. McKeon Preserve and the farthest entrance onto the Rail Trail and what to cut from the grant proposal. Lee would like to request Matt Hill to look at the Witham Street area. Signage indicating the Sanford Springvale Greenway / park rules must be posted. Brady is currently working on the signage. Dereck brought up the matching funds.

- Discussion. Sam asked for input from Forest and Tiffani regarding the CJL trail. Would it be used with improvement? Forest explained that the trail is in good shape, but needs to be cleaned for safety reasons. There is debris from encampments.
- Police Chief Eric Small
 - Sam introduced Sanford Police Chief Eric Small who was invited to discuss best practices for clean-ups and needle disposal.
 - Chief Small shared initial thoughts. The trails are a great resource for the City and are heavily used. There is a bike officer on patrol on the trails most days.
 - The SPD try to prevent large encampments from developing and the crime is largely within the encampments themselves.
 - Trail walkers are free to contact the SPD with concerns like needles, but there are not enough officers.
 - Needles should not be brought to the PD. The numbers seem to be down because clean needles are not being supplied.
 - Discussion about ATVs on the trails. Brady discussed having an ATV officer on trails, Chief Small reiterated understaffing. Currently they are 8 officers down and take roughly one year to train. SPD covers paved trails, trails are under the auspices of the game wardens.
 - Discussion about the Leap area. This is a heavily used area which unfortunately attracts drinking and poor behavior. Suggestion of using trail cameras in the area and asking SPD to walk to the area. The area is more accessible because of improvements to the parking/road.
 - Discussion of camping legality. Meg asked Chief Small to clarify if it is legal to camp on City property. It is NOT legal to camp on City own property. Brady noted that the new signage will indicate potential legal action for violating rules of public areas.

New Business

- Gowen Park. There is a large encampment area that needs clean-up. Sam mentioned that Alex Clary is visiting the meeting to discuss potential partnerships. The committee is interested in getting this area cleaned-up. Alex said they would be very motivated to clean this area. Sam will follow-up with pictures and plans.
- Sunken Railcar Signage Feedback
 - Discussion. The person who originally organized signage was an Eagle Scout named Will Kiley. General feeling is that the current signage focuses on local railroad history and does not indicate where the railroad accident took place. Most feel this is misleading.
- Follow-up regarding previous discussion of the grant.

- Lee asked for follow-up with Matt Hill regarding relabeling of the bike path. Which led to a motion.
- MOTION. Dave made a motion to approach the city to improve signage of Main St. to Mousam and Prospect to Lucerne. Dereck Seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Sam. Seconded by Thom. Unanimous vote. Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.*

*Amended to "enthusiastically made a motion to adjourn".

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Taylor Coombs,
Sanford Trails Committee Secretary