

Sanford Trails Committee  
Monday July 15, 2024

Members Present: Dollie Hutchins, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Dereck Bourque, Hazen Carpenter, Lawrence Furbish, Thom Gagne, Eric St. Onge, Katie Manende-Hall, Sam Parady

Dave Parent and Brady Lloyd had excused absences.

Guests: Lee Burnett, Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:05

1) Approval of the minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dereck to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report: Being the new fiscal year, CIP balance is \$36,512.35. \$1,700 is encumbered to Bull Pine for chipping services along the Rail Trail. Special reserve account is \$6,356.29 plus \$15,000 encumbered for the RT.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: An article about The Leap has been shared online. Hazen noted this is another bolstering signal in support of fixing the trails around there.
- B. Construction/Maintenance: (i) Bull Pine has already spent 2-3 full days along the Rail Trail. Being a lot of material to shred, they are beyond their initial time frame. Hazen told Bull Pine to keep going and get as much done as possible towards Carpenter's Crossing before the S.T.S. gravel and grade project from Hanson Ridge to that point. Thom and Dollie mentioned a motion and future vote to increase funds to Bull Pine. FEMA grant opportunities were briefly discussed. (ii) Carpenter's Crossing bridge work party still needs to be organized and then the materials will be gathered. Eric requested the work party to be on a weekend date. (iii) RT gates to be installed 9am 7/18 with Jim Roux. Hanson Ridge and Oak St to start. Bright tape should be put on the new gates for visibility. (iv) Be on the lookout for areas where trail maintenance is required. Breton Ave weeds are returning. Other areas where partnering with Great Bay might be helpful are Marginal Way and William Oscar Emery/YMCA.
- C. Volunteer hours: 48 hours since last meeting

4) Old Business:

- A. Canopy Grant: Lee informed the city did not seek funding from this grant.
- B. Crosswalks: Lawrence applied for a \$3,000 Pence Grant for Hanson Ridge, Oak St and Main St by Sherwin Williams crosswalks. Per DOT rules, white stripes mean mandatory stop at crossing. Due to steepness at Hanson Ridge, no white paint can be used for the crosswalk. Bright green striping was discussed and consensus was reached on the need for extra wide stripes for maximum visibility.

- C. Powers Bridge: The different ways of connecting the Birding Ponds with Rt 4 were discussed: trail to Gavel Rd or along the bank on the Western side of the Mousam River. The future route remains up in the air. Thom spoke in favor of having a bridge by the pumping station near Jagger Mill Rd.

5) New Business:

- A. Farm Walk: Lee reached out for help with signs to advertise McDougal's Farm Walk July 27-28.
- B. Anne Thomas, the director of Goodall Library, described how members of the community felt anxiety and a feeling of not being safe on trails. Officer Colleen Adams is willing to participate in some sort of program. Katie also mentioned guided walks. Timeframe discussed was August/September. Lighting by the Armory to Gowen Park, addressing trash/overgrown shrubs and keeping up with general maintenance all contribute to feelings of security.
- C. Other: Abbreviated trails maps with less options and more focus on well maintained/safe areas were highlighted. Monthly trail walks/trail partners could increase interest and safety. No update to Trails Master plan, Lee is open to working with TC volunteers.
- D. Granite Markers: Lee is organizing an October meeting that focuses on the history of the railroad. Lee is optimistic that some of the missing granite mile markers along the Rail Trail will be returned.

6) Adjournment: Motion by Hazen and seconded by Thom to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:25

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary