

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday September 16, 2024

Members Present: Lawrence Furbish, Dereck Bourque, Dollie Hutchins, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Shalimar DeBusk, Hazen Carpenter, Brady Lloyd, Eric St. Onge, Katie Manende Hall, Thom Gagne, Al Pollard, Sam Parady

Dave Parent had an excused absence.

Guests: Lee Burnett, Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:01

1) Approval of the minutes from the August 19, 2024 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dollie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$12,786.43. S.T.S. has finished their third installment of work along the Rail Trail. The trail from Hanson Ridge to Carpenter's Crossing has been entirely graveled and graded. New maps have been ordered. The city has applied for a FEMA grant which could potentially cover the \$5,100 spent to Bull Pine on storm cleanup sometime in the future. Special revenue account is \$6,856.29 plus \$15,000 encumbered for the Rail Trail (S.T.S.). There was a \$500 online donation which the committee greatly appreciates. Consensus was reached to write a thank-you letter which Dollie volunteered for. Hazen also suggested a thank-you letter to S.T.S. for their effective and budget conscious efforts to improve the Rail Trail.

- a. Lawrence also mentioned hiring Bull Pine to clear limbs from Hanson Ridge to Oak St.
- b. The National Guard could be involved with graveling and grading the Rail Trail past Carpenter's Crossing next year with the Trails Committee covering the cost of materials. Thom requested further clarification on the status of the Carpenter's Crossing bridge

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Melanie led a Mind and Body hiking group from McKeon Reserve to Deering Pond. Katie has been handling social media since our last meeting.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) Rail Trail gates have been restored after being damaged. (ii) 3-4 Sno Goers (snowmobile club) are volunteering to help on Friday September 20, 2024 to work on Carpenter's Crossing bridge. The new boards will make the bridge easier for horses, snowmobiles and people going along the route. (iii) The importance of a signage subcommittee was discussed. Dave suggested via email that larger "no motor vehicles" signs are needed. Al, Hazen, Dollie and Dereck expressed interest in examining the current signs along the Rail Trail, Gowen Park, and other places. Dollie suggested eliminating the speed limit signs along the RT. (iv) Brady suggested repairing the Mousam Way South Boardwalk sometime in early October. Al had previously counted 19 boards needing to be replaced.

- C. City Relations: Sam mentioned the issue of trash/litter was raised during public comment at a recent city council meeting. A citizen was concerned about trash by the Mousam River near Cyro Drive. The rubbish is located entirely on private land.
- D. Volunteer Hours: 27 hours since last meeting

4) Old Business:

- A. Game camera to monitor trail entrances: Dollie talked with Jack McAdam who recommended the SpyPoint system. Good cell phone service is required but the images generated are good quality. Katie said the device should be GPS tracked in case it is stolen and said that cell phone reception should be adequate where the committee has discussed. Dereck talked about AirTag tracking and alternate options, different cameras use various battery/solar charging methods.
- B. Crosswalks: The state has issued more requirements for creating an official crosswalk. Large signs to warn traffic of trail crossings along Hanson Ridge and Oak St will be the most realistic option.
- C. New maps have arrived (3000 maps).

5) New Business:

- A. Trail Safety Meeting: Officer Colleen Adams, Lawrence Furbish, Hazen Carpenter and Dollie Hutchins will highlight Sanford's trail system at Goodall Public Library on September 28th (10am Shaw's Plaza). Hazen will explain the history of the committee, Dollie about geocaches and Lawrence will speak about the trails website. Officer Adams will talk about staying safe on the trails.
- B. Lawrence and Brady talked about the importance of calling Sanford police's non-emergency dispatch regarding unauthorized motor vehicles on the Rail Trail.
- C. Bull Pine: Consensus was reached to have Bull Pine clear more downed trees along the Rail Trail. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dollie to authorize Bull Pine to trim for two days (\$1,700 per day) along the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Main St. Unanimously approved.
- D. Fence: Hazen will reach out to Stone Fencing to fix the damaged fence along Hanson Ridge road.
- E. Gate painting: Many gates need to be cleaned and stripped prior to being painted. Dereck said the gate by the Middle School was ready to go. He suggested using spray paint for the ease and cost (6 cans for \$40. Dereck also mentioned various shades of green which could be used.
- F. Dino Tracks: Dereck has been brainstorming ways to improve paved areas of trail with dino/mammoth/wildlife tracks painted along the path. Stencils could be used to make the trail more fun. This project could be done near the YMCA. Potential partners include the Arts Commission, SRTC, and High School art program.
- G. Trails Master Plan Survey: The draft questionnaire in the city's survey regarding the trails was discussed. Adding options to reflect horse riding, geocaching and snow shoeing were suggested, as was asking which trail needs the most work/gets the most use. Melanie highlighted using a "weekend role call" technique to get more interest/engagement in the future. Examples include "where did you go this weekend?"

or “where did you paddle?” Dereck highlighted the importance of group activities like 5Ks. Brady mentioned we currently have an annual Turkey Trot.

- H. William Oscar Emery Trail Kiosk: Lee requested the committee authorize the removal of three boulders in front of the new kiosk to be replaced by more traditional bollards. The boulders make weed control difficult. Some committee members like the natural look of the boulders while others talked about opening the entrance with new bollards and allowing the foot traffic to naturally tamp down weeds. Lee said the new posts would be affordable. Motion by Sam and seconded by Melanie to approve bollards for the William Oscar Emery trailhead kiosk. Sam, Melanie, Dereck and Al voted in favor of the proposal. Dollie and Katie abstained. Eric and Hazen voted no. Motion approved.
- I. Melanie is hoping to organize a trail walk on October 5th and 19th.

6) Adjournment: Motion by Al and seconded by Dereck to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:57

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary