

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday October 16, 2023

Members Present: Lawrence Furbish, Dollie Hutchins, Hazen Carpenter, Brady Lloyd, Thom Gagne, Dave Parent, Sam Parady

Guests: Oliver Jones, Dianne Connolly, Melanie Taylor Coombs, Lee Burnett

Katie and Al had excused absences.

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Approval of the minutes from the September 18, 2023 meeting. Lawrence highlighted one correction: the estimate of \$600 along Spartan Drive was for water diversions not paving. Motion by Thom and seconded by Dollie to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

2) SRTC Welding Project - Oliver Jones is collaborating with the senior welding class to create a sculpture which would be a gift to Sanford. Installed along an undetermined trail, the project would promote a sense of pride, positive view and a modern reflection of the city. Oliver asked if the committee would be supportive of showcasing the vocational tech center with a sculpture trail. Lawrence said the project was a great idea and asked about the location and design. Dave brought up the arts commission and suggested their involvement. Dollie was supportive and mentioned a plan should be made for the long-term upkeep of the sculpture. Oliver said the SRTC students would be responsible for future maintenance. Hazen said the sculpture was a good idea and suggested a theme be established such as the railroad (Rail Trail possible location), water power or agriculture. Oliver asked if there were restrictions regarding the size and timeline of the project but Brady said no. Dollie suggested picking the place before finalizing a design while Brady encouraged a presentation be made to the city council's Property Subcommittee with the broad idea and several locations. Lawrence thought the students should be given free reign with the design and Oliver concluded they would.

3) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$12,010.18. \$19,809 has been encumbered with \$15,741 to S.T.S. for Rail Trail gravel and grading from Hanson Ridge to Main St, and \$4,000 to Eric Thorpe for the Beaver Deceiver. Special reserve account is \$7,656.29, with \$2,000 from Mousam Way Land Trust added and encumbered for Eric Thorpe.

4) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach: Lawrence noted ATV-related comments about the Rail Trail on social media after announcing the improvements made by Stuart and Torno.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) Work parties were organized and weed removal took place along the trailheads of Emery St, Pioneer Ave and by the Public Works garage. Lawrence shared photos of the brush removal via email. (ii) No excessive water has been observed by Oak St going down the Rail Trail; the nearby water service repair

and ditch have likely resolved the situation. (iii) The fence along Hanson Ridge road will be fixed on the city's timeline (iv) Hazen urged CMP to replace the substandard surface of the Stanley Rd parking lot and new, less sandy material was applied. Thom asked if additional brush clearing was going to be needed. (v) S.T.S. went the extra mile to complete the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Main St within the initial budget and also restored MWLT's Vigue Trail. The washout across from Sherwin Williams was addressed with new fill and stone drainage on the side (vi) Hazen installed a temporary gate enclosure by Hanson Ridge and asked if the committee still wanted additional roadblocks to prevent motorized use. Brady said it's worth protecting what we spent money on.

C. Volunteer hours: 67 hours for September

5) Old Business:

- A. Beaver Deceiver: The new device has been installed. Increased water flow was noticed on western side of Deering Pond. Lawrence said he would call the Game Warden before removing any future dams in the area. Sam asked if the cleared area by the Beaver Deceiver would rewild on its own. Dave said the area would grow back naturally and that it would have been ideal if 100 feet of pipe was used for the project; ditching could also be implemented around Deering Pond to manage water levels.
- B. Spartan Drive: No update from Public Works on water diversion efforts

6) New Business:

- A. Update from Lee Burnett: (i) William Oscar Emery trailhead kiosk is in its final stages. New photos for the panel have been fabricated. New gravel will be needed between the road and kiosk. Lee suggested getting granite posts instead of the boulders. Brady said removing brush will open up the area. Hazen and Lawrence like the existing boulders. Dave said the boulders can be moved by the Sewer District if access is required whereas pillars might be more difficult. Consensus was reached to revisit the post/boulder decision after other improvements are complete. (ii) Springvale Spring-Lionel Sevigny wants to replace the bridge and improve the area. Partners in the effort include the Housing Authority, an engineer and Dave Nickerson's shop for assembly. (iii) The R.T.P grant for the Rhododendron Reserve has been applied for and work will commence after the initial Community Forest trail is complete. (iv) Lee is collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce and Growth Council to make a new illustrated trail map with a Biddeford artist. Lawrence asked if there would be an opportunity for comment on the design. (v) Restoring granite trail markers along the Rail Trail- each mile was historically marked with stone. Some of the actual markers have been located but it is possible to have the vintage pillars recreated and put back along the trail. Lawrence said he would draft a letter of appeal for the historic pieces to be returned. Dave said they technically are stolen property being official survey markers.
- B. Rail Trail funding/policies: City-matched grants such as the R.T.P grant will be probable sources for the most costly portion of the route, Hanson Ridge to Lebanon. Rick Stanley encouraged Lawrence to apply for the William Oscar Emery grant. Lawrence mentioned a legislative bond with funds for trails. Future improvement areas also include Main St to

Witham St. where the trail is unclear. Hazen called for a Rail Trail budget with a clear list of outstanding maintenance items. Lawrence and Hazen will review the Rail Trail policy list and Brady mentioned a six week timeline to develop the budget. Brady will request \$30,000 for next year's trails CIP to manage the new linear park.

6.) Closing Remarks: Lawrence asked about recent sightings of needles along the trail and highlighted the need for new committee recruits.

7.) Adjournment: Motion by Lawrence and seconded by Thom to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:43

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary