

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday November 18, 2024

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

Dave Parent had an excused absence.

Guest: Lee Burnett

Meeting began at 7:07

1) Approval of the minutes from the October 24, 2024 meeting. Lawrence asked for more details about the social media post in which a trail user talked about feeling unsafe. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Al to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: The CIP account totals \$12,079.43 after paying H.A. Stone \$450 to fix the fence along Hanson Ridge Rd/Rail Trail parking area. \$2,500 is owed to the Snowmobile Club for improving the Farm Trail (they completed the project and shared their progress on Facebook). The special revenue account is \$7,616.29 after a \$660 anonymous donation and \$100 from tee shirt sales over the summer. In addition to these funds, \$5,000 Rail Trail grant funds remain unused/available and \$3,000 from the Pence grant can be accessed for crosswalks in Springvale. (ii) Brady plans to request \$30,000 TIF funds for next year's Trails budget: estimates and requests are on an accelerated timeline (due next month) to allow the Council more time in the absence of a separate Budget Committee to reach consensus.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Melanie along with any other committee member can send photos and social media content to Katie who will gladly post.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) The Snowmobile Club replaced the Carpenter's Crossing bridge sign along the Rail Trails towards Lebanon. The new sign looks fantastic. Lee mentioned Fast + Happy Bicycles is willing to volunteer labor to swap out the new boards on the bridge to more safely accommodate bikes in addition to horses, people and snowmobiles. There have been numerous complaints/concerns about the parallel-to-the-trail direction of the wood boards and bicycle wheels getting caught between them. (ii) A work party is needed to repair the Mousam Way South boardwalk between Emery/School St. The Kiwanis Club and Great Bay Community Services may be interested in helping. Sam mentioned Councilor Hanselmann mentioned the boardwalk and Lawrence noted how more resources ought to be devoted towards improving central/southern Sanford trails (big picture connecting to Eastern Trail) (iii) Equipment and formal permission will be needed in order to move and install new, more visible trail signs by the High School. (iv) Bull Pine has been booked to clear brush along the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Oak St, exact timeline is pending. (v) A sign

committee should review Hazen's survey of current signs and needs. The relevance of speed limit signs discussed, as they can pertain to snowmobiles and E-bikes. Al asked about the permissibility of E-bikes and Brady explained they are not registered as ATVs and therefore would be allowed. (vi) The city needs to adopt formal ordinances for all parks, including the new Rail Trail Greenway. Brady is using the city of Brewer's rules as a model. Right now the only firm rules are park open/close hours. (vii) Repaving the trail along the pond by Haven Cove condos will cost an estimated \$14,000. Kiwanis funds may be available for the project. Sam will reach out to the condo association to express the committee's potential future interest in repairing the trail there.

C. Volunteer Hours: 29 hours since last meeting

4) Old Business:

- A. Crosswalks: Resources are available (aforementioned grant), waiting on Public Works for next steps to improve Rail Trail crossings along Hanson Ridge, Oak and Main St.
- B. Spray painting Rail Trail gates (and others across the trail system) will have to wait until Spring.
- C. Lots of trails maps are available, please call Brady or Barbara Bucklin ahead of time before picking up from the Memorial Gym.
- D. Brady can mention the concept of a Dinosaur tracks project to the Arts Commission. The Trails committee will likely support it if a volunteer artist wants to paint. Paved trails by the YMCA would be a good spot for this fun idea.
- E. The City of Sanford Master Plan was discussed and the past inclusion of the trails as a draw/magnet for visitors was highlighted. An in-person meeting at City Hall in January/February was suggested to review the next iteration of the Trails Master Plan due in May 2025.
- F. Volunteer recognition dinner: Lee is asking the Trails Committee to pitch in and help fund a 3 Rivers Land Trust/Mousam Way Land Trust and Sanford Trails Committee celebration of volunteers at River Junction Brewery. Brady to consult with the city finance department to get clarification on spending special revenue funds for catering. The committee suggested January 25th. The event will be between 2-4pm and around 50 people are expected. The purpose of the gathering is to increase connection between the three important trail groups in Sanford. Melanie and Lee will work together to create a slideshow. Katie suggested a fundraising event for public trails could also be held at River Junction.

5) New Business:

- A. Nominating Committee: Hazen and Al can reach out to potential 2025 Trails Committee officers before their formal nomination.

6) Adjournment: Motion by Dollie and seconded by Sam to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:33

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary