

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday December 26, 2023

Members Present: Lawrence Furbish, Dave Parent, Brady Lloyd, Hazen Carpenter, Thom Gagne, Katie Mandende-Hall, Sam Parady

Guest: Melanie Taylor Coombs

Meeting began at 7:05

1) Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2023 meeting. Lawrence noted Botting is the correct spelling for the GIS specialist. Motion by Lawrence and seconded by Hazen to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$11,866.58. \$200 is encumbered to Matt Landry for repairing the Stanley Rd parking lot. Special revenue account is \$7,706.29. Brady requested \$30,000.00 for the next annual trails budget. This value reflects the importance of the trails to the city and the need for contracted work on larger projects.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) Three two-yard loads of gravel were delivered to William Oscar Emery Drive and much appreciated volunteers from Great Bay Services helped spread the gravel around the kiosk. Hazen, Lawrence and Lee helped too. Further amounts of fabric and fill will be needed for optimal appearance and function. (ii) The broken fence at the Hanson Ridge Rd parking area ought to be fixed before the snow flies. Brady said the project is on the radar of Parks and Rec/Public Works. (iii) Hazen removed the beaver dam along the Rail Trail to allow sitting water to flow towards Hanson Ridge road. Portions of the trail were flooded during the December storm (it remained intact), further demonstrating the importance of water level management in the area. There are also secondary dams behind the new deceiver which are slowing water flow in that other outlet. The dams are relatively small and could be removed without heavy equipment but they are on Land Trust property. Dave pointed out that the removal of dams on city property is allowed and the culverts by the deceiver could be extended. Dave also highlighted trapping as a measure to manage the issue long-term.
- B. City Relations - Sam: Councilor Ayn Hanselmann provided positive feedback on the condition of the refurbished Rail Trail; the decreased noise and increased maintenance were noted. Councilor Hanselmann advised that pictures of trail maintenance projects really help the Council understand details and recommended the committee advocate for winter activities like snowshoeing on social media. Future priorities should include an updated trails website to make it easier for people to understand where to go and all the different options for outdoor activities.
- C. Volunteer hours: 59 hours for November

4) Old Business:

- A. William Oscar Emery Drive Kiosk: Lee communicated the new sign is \$1,150 over the estimated cost. The \$1,850 Payson Grant designated for the sign (in the special reserve account). The Trails Committee has not committed funds to the sign.
- B. Rail Trail Policy: The committee reviewed the RT policies approved by City Council. Additional language about extended crossings requiring permission from Parks and Rec were discussed. Hazen expressed skepticism towards some of the changes and Dave highlighted a different interpretation of the no firearm discharge zone pertaining to residential areas specifically. Dave and Hazen spoke to the local tradition of hunting in the lands adjoining the new park.

5) New Business:

- A. Lawrence is preparing an Annual Report for the City Council. Committee members are welcome to send pictures of trail accomplishments during 2023. Lawrence will present the summary at City Hall.
- B. 2024 Officer Nominations: Lawrence, Hazen, and Sam are willing to continue their roles as Committee officers in 2024- Lawrence Furbish as Chairman, Hazen Carpenter as Vice Chairman and Sam Parady as Committee Secretary. Motion by Dave and seconded by Thom that nominations cease with the aforementioned slate of candidates. Unanimously approved.
- C. 88 Alfred Rd: The City of Sanford has leverage for a recreational easement connecting Mousam Way South with Rt 4 if the current owners seek a development permit. There are no incentives to the land owner if their activities are limited to rebuilding the existing structure. Jamie Cole, the Director of Planning and Code Enforcement is a potential resource for additional information about the parcel.
- D. High School Gates: The R.T.P. Grant was issued with part of the local match being \$1,000 of in-kind labor from students. The gates surrounding the newly gravel-and-graded trails look uninviting and completely shut. Lawrence called Superintendent Matt Nelson who will communicate with the facilities staff to work on the issue. Talked-about solutions include retractable bollards which would keep the gates partially open. Hazen advocated for making paths around the gates. Brady is comfortable with creating new paths and closing out the grant as quickly as possible: the unused \$1,000 of in-kind labor should not slow the process and jeopardize the opportunity for another R.T.P. grant in March. Dave supported paths around the gates but said the curve near the middle gate makes the bypass there more difficult.
- E. Rhododendron Reserve: Lawrence suggested formally releasing the \$1,400 already approved to the Three Rivers Land Trust for surveying the future Rhododendron Reserve trail. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Thom to release the funds. Unanimously approved.
- F. Rail Trail Gates: Brady and other committee members reiterated their support for constructing gates with the Snowmobile club to protect the Rail Trail. Motion by Thom and seconded by Dave to approve \$2,000 for Hazen to proceed with gathering materials and work with the Snow-Goers to build and install gates before the Spring. Unanimously approved.

G. Committee obligations were discussed in addition to priorities for 2024. Funds have been set aside for the Farm Trail (\$2,500), the Rhododendron Reserve (\$4,200) and \$300 for William Oscar Emery Drive. Brady was cautious about deciding firmly what to do at the next meeting considering new committee members wouldn't have much time to process the options. Hazen mentioned maintenance needs such as brush clearing, mowing, trail repairs, and additional signs/gates.

6) Closing Remarks: Melanie Taylor Coombs has indicated she will join the Trails Committee in 2024.

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

Meeting ended at 8:50

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary