

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday May 20, 2024

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

Guests: Matt Egan, Monica McKenna

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Approval of the minutes from the April 22, 2024 meeting. Motion by Dollie and seconded by Katie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report: CIP balance is \$6,545.31. \$900 encumbered to SRTC for the HS gates and new funds set aside to Bull Pine. Special reserve account is \$6356.29 plus \$15,000 encumbered for the Rail Trail.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communication/Outreach: Great content posted by Melanie and working well with Katie to manage social media. Meta Business Suite is now being utilized to automatically link Facebook and Instagram.
- B. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) \$1,700 encumbered funds to Bull Pine for brush chipping along the Rail Trail (ii) RT gates have been put on the back burner due to the storm clean up activity, but everything is ready to go for a future work date (iii) Materials for Carpenter's Crossing will likely cost around \$600. Hazen can truck in the supplies (including the pressure treated decking). Lawrence filled out a work order request form for Parks and Rec. The new boards will be spaced closer together to accommodate foot, bike and hoof traffic. (iv) The Rail Trail ought to have 3 x \$9,900 increments of gravel and grade investment, to be further discussed (v) Haven Cove paved pathway is estimated to cost \$15,000 at \$250 per square foot. (vi) A volunteer cleared the Mousam Way entrance along Pleasant Rd from debris and obstructive branches. This effort is much appreciated and saved the committee from hiring out the project. The volunteer spent 6 hours on Earth Day improving the trail.
- C. City Relations - Sam: Once budget priorities are finalized for fiscal year 2024-2025 it would be a good idea to present City Council with an update. Lawrence said to do it during public participation at City Hall.
- D. Volunteer hours: 47.5 hours since last meeting

4) Old Business:

- A. High School Gates: Big thanks to Katie who applied turpentine and painted the gates. Now the R.T.P. grant can officially be finalized.

- B. Sweetgum Tree: The project is complete. Kevin McKeon mounted and installed the new plaque celebrating the largest American Sweetgum tree in Maine with the help of Dollie and Lawrence. The tree is near the armory along Number One Pond.
- C. Rail Trail Gravel and Grade: Hazen proposes to spend \$15,000 plus \$14,700 from the next fiscal year to S.T.S. in three increments to improve the Rail Trail from Hanson Ridge to Lebanon town line. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dereck and Eric. Unanimously approved.

5) New Business:

- A. Beaver Deceiver: Mousam Way Land Trust to clear the secondary beaver dams behind the deceiver.
- B. Trails Plan: The City of Sanford is updating its Master Plan and Lee Burnett has volunteered to re-evaluate the Trails Master Plan. Hazen is interested given all the changes. Dave is on the City's Committee and will keep the Trails in mind. Katie also expressed interest.
- C. Healthy Living Expo: 12 June at the YMCA. Volunteers are needed from 10am-12pm to hand out Trails Maps for seniors. Dereck and Hazen volunteered.
- D. Melanie (and Henri the Trail Dog) led a guided walk through the McKeon Reserve on 6 May. The committee is grateful for the organizational efforts.
- E. New Maintenance: Trash cleanup is needed along Mousam Way South. The ever-present trash bag at Deering Pond was also discussed. The committee was interested in a permanent trash bin near the viewpoint given the volume of foot traffic. Trail maintenance along Pioneer Ave was also mentioned. Dollie mentioned there is still construction debris at the Stanley Rd parking lot. Monica suggested rakes to clean the trails and Dereck and Thom volunteered to chainsaw downed trees along Mousam Way North.
- F. New Trails Maps: Possible shortage of trails maps. Discussion of trails related QR codes.
- G. Granite Markers: Lee suggested a letter from the Trails Committee about the historic Rail Trail markers appealing to current owners of the missing granite rail road markers. All but one have been located. Public Works has a similar sized marker that could be exchanged for the original pieces.
- H. Hazen suggested members share their opinions on the official name of the Rail Trail Park. Rail Road Park, Sanford Springvale Rail Trail Greenway, Parkway etc. were mentioned as examples. Email Lawrence your top 3 choices. Dereck suggested naming the park after the type of train engine that would have been used at the time.
- I. Dollie suggested a Harlan Eastman Memorial Geocache. What a great way to honor an important Sanford figure.

6) Adjournment: Motion by Thom and seconded by Al. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:30

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary