

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday September 18, 2023

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

Guests: Dianne Connolly, Bruce1, Monica McKenna

Dave had an excused absence.

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Approval of the minutes from the August 21, 2023 meeting. Motion by Al and seconded by Thom to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$31,819.18. \$20 was paid to Burpee's Signs on 8 September for small stickers over ATV symbols along the Rail Trail. \$5,840 was paid to the High School Loop as a local match for the RTP grant on 18 September. Special reserve account is \$7,656.29 plus future donations related to the Chickadee Chase scavenger hunt.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) A recently downed tree near Carpenter's Crossing will be removed. (ii) The Breton Ave trailhead was cleared of weeds by Hazen, Dollie, Lawrence and Sam on 31 August. Lee Burnett emailed to say he would weed near the William Oscar Emery trailhead on the same date. Weeds need to be tackled at numerous other trail entrances. Main St to the Jr High is very grown-in. Most gates need to be repainted as well. Thom mentioned some of his friends were interested in helping out with weeds; they are welcome to volunteer, contact Hazen or Lawrence with questions and can fill out paperwork at the transfer station for disposal. (iii) The Rail Trail signs from Burpee will be installed by Lawrence, Brady and Hazen. Dollie offered to help if needed. Hazen encouraged the committee to spend money for maintenance.
- B. City Relations - Lawrence: Lee Burnett spoke at the City Council meeting on September 5 regarding run-off from Oak St and Spartan Drive and the lack of investment in the Rail Trail. Mayor Brink said conditions are now more favorable for grants and said the City would continue to work towards improvements.
- C. Volunteer Hours: 34 hours for August

4) Old Business:

- A. Beaver Deceiver: Eric Thorpe met with Hazen, Dave, and Lawrence and said he was getting materials this week with the cages and installation slated for the week after. Brady indicated the Financial Department approved using \$3,200 from the special revenue account to pay for the project. That sum is the difference between the original amount budgeted for the issue (\$2,800) and the \$6,000 total. Hazen spoke in favor of removing both the beaver dam and the culvert on the south side of the Rail Trail.

- B. Maintenance Projects: Numerous areas need improvements. Mousam Way South near the Public Works is very overgrown by the entrance. The middle section is acceptable but the weeds and downed trees should be addressed. Regarding other projects, Matt Hill, Pete Smith have offered overtime to Public Works employees. Contracted laborers to work on trails must have worker's comp, general liability and auto insurance. AI suggested interested companies seek short-term insurance policies. Dollie wondered about the requirements in other municipalities.
- C. Erosion: Matt Hill, Pete Smith, and Lawrence looked at Spartan Drive, Oak Street and by Sherwin Williams. Concerning Spartan, the engineers recommended digging a diversion farther up from the trail or paving the path. Water diversion is estimated to cost around \$600. Pete was skeptical of making changes at the Oak St trailhead beyond additional gravel and cleaning the nearby culvert. Dollie noticed $\frac{2}{3}$ of recent rainwater turning towards the trail over the cement pad. Hazen suggested the re-paving of the road led to the new water pattern.
- D. Gate Locks: Dianne asked about the summer wildfire near Pioneer Ave and the smashed locks on the gate. Hazen explained the locks were initially requested by the Fire Dept and they likely have copies of the key.

5) New Business:

- A. Rail Trail Resurfacing: No public bids are required if the committee spends under \$10,000. Stuart Torno and Sons could be paid to refurbish the most used section of the RT with new gravel and compressing the surface. The committee came to the general conclusion between Hanson Ridge and Oak St gets the most foot traffic. Gate sleeves to prevent unauthorized motorized use would be ideal. Motion by AI and seconded by Hazen to spend up to \$9,500 for Rail Trail resurfacing by S.T.S. between Hanson Ridge and Oak St. Unanimously approved.
- B. Grants: The committee talked about the Pence Grant, William Oscar Emery Grant and the Land and Water Conservation fund as potential sources to fund more work along the Rail Trail. Brady is curious about the R.T.P grant being utilized again in the future and Lawrence wondered about bonds for capital improvement.
- C. Chickadee Chase: Brady explained the scavenger hunt being organized by Matt Egin and his local LLC. Participants donate \$5 to Parks and Rec and send their receipt to Chickadee Chase. The first person to find a fake chickadee either on the Rail Trail, Mousam Way North or the YMCA/Jr High trail wins \$100.
- D. Sculpture: Brady said Oliver Jones is organizing a senior class welding project to be displayed along the trail. Details about the gift are not final.

6.) Closing Remarks: None at this time.

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

Meeting ended at 8:23

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary