

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday November 20, 2023

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

Guests: Dianne Connolly, Monica McKenna, Melanie C, Lee Burnett

Meeting began at 7:10

- 1) Approval of the minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting. Motion by Hazen and seconded by Dollie to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
- 2) Financial Report - Brady: CIP balance is \$11,866.58. \$200 is encumbered for Matt Landry for grading the Stanley Rd parking lot. Special reserve account is \$7,706.29.
- 3) Public Works installed a riprap-style stone water diversion along Spartan Drive. Many thanks to Matt Hill, Pete Smith and the Public Works crew for their efforts to prevent the recurring washouts along the trail there.
- 4) Committee Reports:
 - A. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen: (i) The Stanley Rd Mousam Way North parking lot looks beautiful after being regraded by Matt Landry. Vandalism damaged the surface last month after it had been newly refurbished by CMP. (ii) It would be ideal to repair the wooden fence by the Hanson Ridge Rail Trail parking lot soon. (iii) School St parking lot: visible posts should be placed on each side of the driveway between the culvert before winter. (iv): Gates for the Rail Trail: an over-winter project - Hazen met with Jim Roux of the Snow-Goers to look at protective gate installations. Collaborating on cost and labor, the Trails Committee would buy the steel while the snowmobilers would weld and install in the Spring. Estimated cost is \$500 for each of the 5 gates. Dollie and Lawrence suggested building a prototype first but Hazen said it would be impractical not to manufacture all at the same time and expressed confidence in the design.
 - B. City Relations: Lawrence updated the City Council on October 17th regarding the Rail Trail gravel and grading work completed by STS and the closed status of the RTP and Land and Water Conservation grants (tied to High School Loop and Carpentier Park, respectively). Mayor Brink noted she received a lot of popular feedback about the Rail Trail after its recent reconstruction from Main St. to Hanson Ridge Rd.
 - C. Volunteer hours: 25 hours for October
- 5) Old Business:
 - A. William Oscar Emery Drive Kiosk - Lee: A surplus in the budget (filler fabric less expensive than estimate) can pay for more gravel around the structure which would hide the exposed base of the beams. Lee estimated it would take 4-5 people to spread the material in addition to a Skid Steer. Brady recommended contracting this work out.

Hazen offered to seek a price estimate from Matt Landry while other sources of future labor such as Great Bay or Waypoint were discussed as they have planted trees in the past. 20 yards of gravel at \$8.50 per yard could be purchased at and dropped off by Public Works.

- B. Gates around High School Loop: Lee encouraged the committee to address the closed gates around the high school loop. 18" plugs could be utilized to keep the gates partially open at all times. The gates would be wide enough for pedestrians and bicycles and could be widened in the case of emergencies. Thom suggested hiring someone with a portable welder while Brady mentioned the RTP grant's \$1,000 dollars of in-kind labor and would reach out to Adam Hartford who organizes the school's welding program. Dianne strongly suggested talking to Code Enforcement before changing the gates as the school location was permitted with them closed.
- C. Porter Easement to Rhododendron Reserve: The easement has been signed allowing permanent legal recreational access along the Porter's property to the Native Plant Trust's Harvey Butler Rhodo Reserve. The Sanford Community Forest Trail across the street will be constructed first before this new connection is built. On the other side of the Reserve, Lee mentioned negotiations concerning part of Daley Parcel as it would connect to additional land trust and city-owned wetlands towards Harry Howe Rd.
- D. Springvale Spring: Lee described the restored stonework and new native plants at Springvale's namesake spring. The Sevigny family is rejuvenating the area (handicap accessible bridge and possible lighting on the little island) and enlisted Stone Point Studio and Shawn Jalpert for the historic spring.

6) New Business:

- A. Rail Trail Signage and Rules: (i) Lawrence mentioned the possibility of getting larger signs related to non-motorized use. Some ATV riders have anecdotally claimed not to have been informed or could not see the current (fairly small) signs. Hazen and Thom expressed support for purchasing bigger signs but Lee and Brady felt it was not necessary. Brady said the future gate modifications would drastically reduce motorized use and Lee said over time people will accept the rules. (ii) Lawrence circulated a list of Rail Trail Park management policies and procedures for review. The list will be submitted to the City Council's Operations and Municipal Property Committee for their approval. Consensus was reached to change the opening time of the park from 6am to 5am. Monica McKenna voiced her support for the earlier hours. Dianne mentioned other parks being closed from 11pm to 5am. (iii) Lee expressed strong concern about the provision allowing property owners the ability to cross the trail if they own another parcel on the opposite side, citing previous logging activity which blocked the trail. Brady said any damage to the trail must be remedied per the rules and Sam mentioned crossing doesn't mean impede or block. The original language was left in place.
- B. No Firearm Discharge Zone: Lawrence noted $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on either side of Rt 109 in Sanford is a no firearm discharge zone. Many trails are affected by this regulation. Lawrence reached out to Bill Botting to create an updated layer on the City's GIS website to illustrate the ordinance.

- C. Browning Property: The parcel along Rt 4 with the sewer easement has been sold to Hammer Party Construction LLC. A recreational easement over the sewer line would connect the High School Loop with trails towards the south. Lawrence will write a letter to the new owners about this key connection point.
- D. Sanford Springvale News: Lawrence suggested a series of articles on the various trails to be featured in the local news outlet. Each committee member could write a short article detailing a place they enjoy. Pictures would also be welcome.
- E. Budget/Priorities for the New Year: Begin thinking about next year's construction/maintenance. Signage and work is needed along Pioneer Ave to School St, Rt 4 connection/Browning, and parts of the Rail Trail. Hazen mentioned the road striping and Crosswalks which had been previously discussed at Oak, Main and Hanson Ridge. Lawrence inquired about Haven Cove. Sam supports work from Mill St to the fishing area but doesn't think a lot of people will walk between the condos towards the cemetery. Regarding the entire budget, Hazen estimated 4 to 6 thousand for maintenance alone. Sam, Dollie and Hazen all support continuing to invest in the Rail Trail as a top priority.

7) Closing Remarks: The need for additional committee members was discussed and Dianne mentioned the opportunity/possibility for students to volunteer on the trails for community service.

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

Meeting ended at 8:47

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary