

Sanford Trails Committee Meeting
Monday March 20, 2023

Members Present: Lawrence Furbish, Dollie Hutchins, Katie Manende-Hall, Kevin McKeon, Al Pollard, Hazen Carpenter, Dave Parent, Thom Gagne, Sam Parady

Brady Lloyd had an excused absence. Jeff Wells is unfortunately stepping down from the committee; we are thankful for, appreciate and welcome back his contributions anytime.

Meeting began at 7:05

1) Approval of the minutes from the February 27, 2023 meeting. Motion by Al and seconded by Kevin to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

2) Financial report: Trails CIP balance is \$21,262.18. Special revenue is \$5301.29. The two accounts combined total \$26,563.47. Lawrence circulated an updated priorities and obligations list for reference. Current obligations total \$25,952 but not all are to be paid this year. This fiscal year's planned expenditures are \$5,840 for the High School Loop, \$7,245 to School St, and \$1,400 for rhododendron surveying (\$14,485). On hold projects include the \$2,800 beaver deceiver fix and the Snow-Goer's \$2,500 Farm Trail. \$2,000 for Marginal Way road striping has been approved but no contract drawn for the work. Next fiscal year's obligation is \$4167 for the rhododendron trail.

3) Committee Reports:

- A. Communications/Outreach - Katie: Positive feedback on social media, with 2200 likes on Facebook (+18) and 503 on Instagram (+12). Feel free to share any photos from the trail.
- B. City Relations - Sam: On March 7th the City Manager presented an initial municipal budget to City Council including \$25,000 for the Trails Committee under Parks & Recreation. There will be additional council meetings before the final budget is approved. On March 21st there will be a meeting between Sanford ATV Club, City of Sanford, and ATV ME regarding future ATV trails in/around Sanford.
- C. Construction/Maintenance - Hazen:
 1. Stuart, Torno and Stuart will soon be contacted to work on School St.
 2. Marginal Way- what is the scope/timetable for the road striping? Ready to go when the committee decides. Al said to be mindful of this year's obligations.
 3. Haven Cove - restoring the gravel in this area would cost 8-10 thousand. The trail is very much deteriorated. Hazen and Sam can reach out to the Haven Cove landowners to gauge their level of interest.
 4. Thom reported a downed tree by the Marginal Way gate leading towards the YMCA and Kevin noted 3 downed maples blocking the trail between Hanson Ridge road and Carpenter's Crossing. Lawrence will notify Parks and Rec to address the former obstruction while Hazen and Kevin will clear the Rail Trail. Dave said while Parks and Rec can remove downed trees in established parks,

there will be more remote areas of the trail (despite being on city property) that will require members of the committee to clear the way.

D. Volunteer hours: 43 hours for February

4) Old Business:

- A. Rt. 4 Bridge: Thanks to all who participated in ME Dept. of Transportation's Rt. 4/Powers Bridge public comment period. Dave explained the installation of a pedestrian underpass would be unlikely due to the style of the bridge, the embankment and the lack of height over the river (flood risk would be too high). As the project progresses, be on the look-out for additional DOT public comment opportunities.
- B. High School Loop: Several contractors have been lined up for work to begin in the spring. Final determinations to be made regarding the specific kind of gravel (high quality) and extent to which a fabric layer will be utilized beneath the trail. Hazen pointed out shady areas don't always need a base fabric layer for weed control and the fabric may become exposed over time like near the Armory. Dave noted the additional purpose of fabric is to maintain soil separation and to preserve the cohesion of the gravel. It is likely the non-sewer easement side trails will need fabric to keep the gravel from mixing into the substrate.
- C. Trafx trail counter: Dollie volunteered to research and compare the Trafx device with alternate options to determine the best way to gather empirical data about the number of trail users.
- D. Birding Ponds: Lawrence reported H.A. Stone is prepared to look at the Sewer District's fences once the snow recedes and provide an estimate to move them for a new trail. Sam noted the section would feature both green and blue space and, with the establishment of a parking area near the current gate/River Trail sign, figuring out how to cross the Mousam River by Rt. 4 wouldn't be necessary.
- E. Trails webpage: The electronic versions of the printed maps were located and will be uploaded to the Sanford Trails websites. Photographs will be a first step in making the website more inviting and easy to navigate.

5) New Business:

- A. McKeon Reserve: Kevin indicated a \$250 grant from Mousam Way Land Trust could be obtained to purchase riverstone for the washed out section of the trail. Creating a ford where the McKeon reserve meets Rail Trail is a priority for the Spring- excess water would be able to flow while trail users could still cross.
- B. Browning property: Hazen highlighted the importance of a recreational easement in this parcel and noted the area near the river can't be developed due to the sewer line. Kevin will connect with the landowner at a future time to inquire about the possibility of an easement.
- C. Project Priorities and Budget: Hazen supports the Leap Bridge but is willing to pursue other projects such as the Birding Ponds. Dollie supports putting the Leap bridge on the back burner and, due to the time it takes to organize, wants to focus on the Birding Ponds, School St, and Marginal Way. Al wants to firmly determine this year's costs first before adding new projects. Sam supports the Birding Ponds but suspects it will require

a large part of the budget. Kevin thinks we should pursue the Birding Ponds due to willing partners at the Sewer District but also prioritize maintenance- a separate budget for maintenance vs. new projects may help. Katie supports a dedicated maintenance budget and wants to pick off some of the smaller projects first before large-scale additions. Lawrence supported delineating maintenance/new projects and investing more in the Southern portion of town.

- D. Work order form: Lawrence reminded the committee that a work order form must be filled out for any Trails expense. Copies of the document can be obtained through Parks and Rec.
- E. American Sweetgum Champion: Hazen highlighted the presence of a champion tree along Number One Pond and encouraged the creation of a plaque in its honor. The Sweetgum measures 70 inches in diameter, 62 feet tall and has a crown spread of 35 feet. Katie volunteered to locate the tree.

6) Closing remarks: None at this time.

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

Meeting ended at 8:23

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary