

Sanford Trails Committee
Monday September 6, 2023

Members Present: Al Pollard, Dave Parent, Brady Lloyd, Dollie Hutchins, Lawrence Furbish, Katie Manende-Hall, Sam Parady

Guest: Dianne Connolly

Meeting began at 7:02

1) Beaver Deceiver proposal for Deering Pond: Lawrence reached out to several beaver specialists in Maine to address the currently underperforming infrastructure at the pond.

- A. Eric Thorpe, Animal Damage Control Agent and Registered Maine Guide replied with a proposal. Eric met with Lawrence, Dave, and Lee Burnett and toured the area in question. He concluded beavers have been able to successfully dam the existing device and water is prevented from flowing out. The second cage is damaged and the angle of the first cage connecting to the culvert is inverted from how it should be. Eric proposed to make the second cage culvert deeper and the initial connection higher. The first cage would be modified, the second cage removed and replaced and a third cage would be installed 15-20 feet out entirely beneath the surface. Current parts of the deceiver would be utilized as much as possible while new parts would be non-wood, high grade materials for long-term durability. The goal is for the beavers to dam the second cage while water from the third cage still flows below. The project is quoted for \$6,000 and would be completed over three weeks in September. Work not covered in the quote includes the removal of the current dam and additional excavation around the site.
- B. Lawrence noted Mousam Way Land Trust may be able to contribute monetarily to the project. Sam asked about using the special reserve account to pay; Brady wasn't sure of the exact process for using those funds but would reach out to the City's financial department. Dianne expressed frustration that the city had already paid for a beaver deceiver in the past. Additionally, Dianne asked if Hazen's prior modifications to the current beaver deceiver had been authorized with a Parks and Rec Work Order Request and if those modifications caused the whole problem. Brady confirmed no work order request was received, Dollie said Hazen wanted to prevent the Rail Trail from flooding, and Dave said the project would need to be done irregardless of damage to the second cage. Lawrence said Eric is willing to purchase the necessary insurances to do the job. Katie asked if Hazen was supportive of the project and wasn't sure if he wouldn't modify it again in the future. Lawrence said the only feedback he heard was about the cost.
- C. Motion by Al and seconded by Dave to hire Eric Thorpe to correct the Beaver Deceiver and make it functional. Al, Dave, Dollie, Lawrence and Sam voted in favor, Katie abstained. Motion approved.

Meeting ended at 7:43

Respectfully submitted by Sam Parady, Secretary