

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HOPKINTON, NH
MEETING MINUTES –Approved 10-17-19

September 10, 2019, 7:30 pm; Kimball Cabin

Members present: Lucia Kittredge, Chair; Cleve Kapala, Rob Knight, Bob LaPree, Pierre Vanden Borre.

Meeting minutes from June 11, 2019 accepted. **Next meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 7:00 pm; Location: Hopkinton Library, Local History Room (note: changed to October 17, Town Hall)**

Trail opening for Tooky Trail:

Date for opening tentatively set for Sunday, October 27th at 1:00 pm. Last year's trail opening on the last Sunday in October was extremely well attended.

Committee members will check with the following for potential conflicts:

Lucia: Ron Klemarczyk; ask him to also confirm date with Eagle Scout Patrick Quinn.

Paula Simpkins, Recreation Department

Pierre: School schedule

Cleve/Bob: Cemetery Trustees

Bob and Cleve reported that they had a positive and productive meeting with the Cemetery Trustees.

Preferred route: past the memorial garden.

Signage:

- Diamond shape (with Tooky Trail, hiker symbol and Hopkinton Conservation Commission) in green with white lettering. Bob will work with Voss signs to have signs made.
- Bob/Cleve will work with the cemetery sexton on details of sign mounting and locations.
- Dan Blanchette, director of public works, has approved the idea of painting hiker symbol and arrows on the sidewalk from the gazebo park to the cemetery.

The trail opening will begin and end at the gazebo where there is ample parking. The walk from the gazebo to the parking area at the trailhead is .74 miles. Total round trip walk is estimated at 2.5 to 3 miles. Cleve will walk the Tooky Trail to get an exact mileage.

Publicity: Pierre will organize: to include a flyer with photo of hikers on bridge. Bob will take photo of Pierre's family and possibly a drone photo showing relationship of trail to center of Contoocook; Facebook; Town Crier; posters around town; Susan Covert community email; Recreation Department email.

Trail Map: Ron has completed. Map could be used in publicity.

Refreshments: in Gazebo; apples, cider, cookies. Details to be determined at next meeting and by email.

Trail signage: Lucia is working on individual signs for specific locations, using a company in Hillsboro. Funds were approved by the Conservation Commission.

Trail maintenance: Cleve reported that the trails are in good shape, with the exception of trails through fields. The Putney-Cross trail through Crathern's field has not had enough use to keep down growth.

Walkers are hesitant to use because of poison ivy and ticks. Discussed need for a string trimmer and more volunteers. Dave Luneau has done a good job keeping his field open.

Pierre reported that the post and 'You are Here' sign is down on Burrage Road trail. Cleve will work with Pierre to relocate sign, perhaps on a tree.

Other business: Discussion about succession planning for the committee and recruiting additional volunteers. There are many enthusiastic trail runners/users in town who could be tapped. Discussed idea of holding a meeting during the winter to recruit trail enthusiasts.

Discussed permanent trail easement for critical sections of Greenway. Lucia and Rob to follow up. Cleve and Bob will follow up on another potential landowner.

Bob mentioned that the bridge on Brockway is not in good shape. He and Ron have discussed improvements to bridge and access to it, and coordination with NH Audubon.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Kittredge, Chair