

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HOPKINTON, NH
MEETING MINUTES -- Approved 4-9-19

February 21, 2019, 7:00 pm; Hopkinton Library Community Room

Members present: Lucia Kittredge, Chair; Melissa Jones, Cleve Kapala, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Pierre Vanden Borre.

Meeting minutes from November 13, 2018 accepted. **Next meeting: April 9, 2019, 7 pm; Location: Planning Office at Town Hall**

Trail maintenance: Cleve will contact trail crew volunteers later in the spring for spring clean up.

Signage, trail blazing, improvements: Cleve contacted NH Corrections to learn about their sign making services. Rob showed one of their metal signs for the Winant Trail. Signs can be either plastic or metal. Cleve distributed a table with suggested signs locations and wording. Committee members agreed to walk trails to review signage, arrows, blazing, and other trail conditions, making a list of what is needed. These recommendations, sign design and wording will be discussed at April meeting.

- Pierre: Bohanan East and Contoocook Overlook Trail
- Rob: Greenway section between Old Stagecoach Road to Kimball Lake; Hawthorne Forest.
- Lucia: Greenway section between Old Putney and Old Stagecoach Road; and Putney Hill Connector
- Cleve: Putney to Cross Road Trail; Kimball Lake to Old Putney Road
- Melissa: Ransmeier Woods trails from police station parking area (blue and orange trails)

Ron announced that the Police Department would like to combine the Ransmeier trail parking area and police parking lot in order to improve the entry on Hopkinton Road. This will improve winter parking for trail users. Ron suggested that we cut a connector trail at Ransmeier from the Greenway through the field to make it easier for hikers to access the Greenway from the parking area.

Trail construction and maintenance standards: Rob had sent committee members the standards used on Concord's trails. Ron summarized the history behind the standards which were created to address inconsistencies among trail volunteers. Committee discussed the need for bridges, rails and boardwalks where foot traffic is high, such as on the Hopkinton Village Greenway. Improvements for trails on private land will be less extensive unless trail use or conditions warrant otherwise.

Spring trail event: to be on National Trails Day, June 1, 2019 (first Saturday in June) at Ransmeier Woods. Ron will interpret the property's land use history.

New trail planning:

Rollins Trail; Ron will work on trail and proposed boardwalk with Patrick Quinn as part of his Eagle Scout project. Ron is preparing a wetland permit for the boardwalk. The HCC has authorized funding for materials. Contoocook Greenway: planning on-going.

Facebook page: Pierre presented a suggested Facebook page for communication with trail users, linked to the town's Facebook page. Neal Cass has approved the page. Pierre will manage the page and post upcoming events, trail conditions, photos of trails etc. Users will be able to report on trail conditions.

Other Business: Cleve spoke of ongoing costs to build and maintain trails and asked if the HCC should consider a "Friends of Hopkinton Trails" fund for donations. Committee discussed raising funds for specific projects in the future; agreed the idea needs more discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted, Lucia Kittredge, Chair