

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HOPKINTON, NH
MEETING MINUTES – Approved 9-10-19

June 11, 2019, 7:00 pm; Hopkinton Town Hall

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

Meeting minutes from May 7, 2019 accepted. **Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:30 pm; Location: Kimball Cabins**

National Trails Day hike at Hawthorne Forest: the hike, organized by Pierre, was very successful and achieved our goal of attracting families new to town. Several had learned of the trail network through the Recreation Department's Nature Babes program. Lucia will put together a checklist for future community hikes. Our next hike will be in the fall for the opening of the new trail on the Rollins lot. Spring trail events in the future may not be scheduled on National Trails Day because the first Saturday in June has many competing events.

Rollins Lot trail update: The new trail is almost finished. Ron reported that footprints, bike tracks and bear prints have already been spotted! Patrick Quinn, the Eagle Scout working on the trail, has raised funds for signage which he will order and install. The committee settled on naming the trail "Little Tooky Trail" to easily identify its location. Ron will request up to \$700 from the Conservation Commission for a 5-car parking lot to be located in the log landing area; to be completed by Chuck Rose. Ron is in the process of applying for a driveway permit. The plan is for Little Tooky Trail to continue .7 miles through the Contoocook Cemetery to the riverside/gazebo park. Lucia will contact the Cemetery Trustees to follow up on the discussions at a 2017 meeting when the trail was in the early planning stages. Bob LaPree will assist in coordinating signage with the Cemetery Trustees. Ron will send Lucia a map of the trail. We will hold a grand opening of the trail in October, date to be determined and not to conflict with the cemetery walk scheduled in October.

Ransmeier Woods: Cleve is working on parking lot improvements and a more direct connector to Greenway from the parking lot. Ron and Cleve will cut back invasive bittersweet along field.

Signage: Committee discussed ordering six signs at road crossings/trailheads:

- To Hopkinton Village Greenway: Putney Hill Road at Luneau
- To Cross Road: Putney Hill Road at Lundquist
- To Dolly Road: Putney Hill Road at First Parsonage
- To Putney Hill Road (2): Dolly Road at First Parsonage; Greenway at connector to Putney Hill Rd
- Sign for bridge on Little Tooky Trail: Klem's bridge

Lucia will price out signs for funding request at the next Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission already approved funding for posts at these locations.

Trail maintenance: Cleve reported that trails are in good shape.

Facebook page: Pierre posted a brief summary of the National Trails Day Hike with some of Bob LaPree's photos. All agree that posts should be occasional and reserved for announcements, updates on trail conditions, or to feature specific trails and recommend trail loops etc.

Website: Lucia is compiling a list of corrections and additions to send to Kathy Barnes.

Other business: Cleve suggested that the Conservation Commission consider raising funds to support the trails network (signs, posts, blazing, trailhead parking, etc). He will discuss the idea with Lee Wilder.

Melissa will look at improvements for horse passage at the foot of First Parsonage Road. A discussion followed about Class 6 roads in Hopkinton and their importance to the town's trail network. A conservation goal of the 2002 Master Plan was to link conservation land and Class 6 roads. Ron brought up the example of Concord which discontinued its Class 6 road years ago and is now struggling to gain permission to use them for trails. Rob mentioned future links with trails in Concord which are popular with long distance runners.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Kittredge, Chair