

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

HOPKINTON, NH

September 17, 2018, 7:00 pm

Kimball Cabins, Kimball Lake

MEETING MINUTES – Approved 10-11-18

Administration

Members present: Lucia Kittredge, Chair; Cleve Kapala, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob LaPree

Also attending: James Doneski, Trail Steward; Pierre Vanden Borre, Bonnie Christie

Meeting minutes of July 12, 2018 and Sept 12, 2017 accepted

Next meeting date: Thursday, October 11, 7 pm at Kimball Cabins

General Trails Issues:

- Expand outreach to trail users: James and Pierre represent a younger group of trail runners and mountain bikers in town. They will reach out to their respective user groups. Suggestions include using the Town's Facebook page to promote and highlight the trails; keeping the kiosks at trailheads up to date with trail information and the link to Conservation Lands website. Pierre suggested holding special activities, such as men's and women's trail running events or family events. He will reach out to Paula Simpkins for event coordination. Bonnie mentioned that Five Rivers Conservation Trust has scheduled an event at Bohanan Farm on November 4th. Attendees will tour the Farm activities and hike the various trails. Lucia reported that a group from Hopkinton First Church will hike the Greenway on Sunday, October 14th. Cleve will recruit volunteers to monitor conditions on these trails prior to both these events. The overall sense of the committee is that the trails are well used and appreciated by residents and are a factor in drawing new people to town.
- Expand committee membership: Conservation Commission members will propose Pierre Vanden Borre for the Trails Sub-Committee at their next meeting on September 18.
- Stewardship: recruit additional trail stewards: Cleve reported that the current system of volunteer stewards for different trails and trail sections is not working as well as expected. The committee agreed that a better approach is to identify a pool of trail volunteers who could be contacted when specific tasks are needed, such a cutting blow-downs. James and Pierre will send names and contact information of frequent trail users to Cleve to add to the list of volunteers. Notices at each of the trail kiosks will have information about who to contact to report trail maintenance needs. Lucia will inspect the four kiosks and recommend additional information to be added.
- Signage and blazing: James re-blazed part of the Greenway this summer and will complete the work prior to the October 14th church trail walk (yellow blazes). James will also complete blazing on the new Putney Hill trail (blue blazes).

- Trail maintenance: authority from Select Board and oversight of Conservation Commission: The committee recommends that the Conservation Commission hold an information session with the Select Board to renew authority to maintain trails, especially on Class 6 roads. Most of the Select Board members have been elected since the Greenway and a formal trails system was established in 2013. Lucia provided a brief background on the joint efforts of the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission to follow recommendations of the town's Master Plan to expand awareness and public access to Town-owned conservation land. A brief discussion of long-range plans for greenways and connector trails followed.
- Horse use on town trails: an abutter to a town property is using the trails for horseback riding. James and Cleve will inspect the trails to assess damage. The committee agreed to consult with representatives of the horse group who have advised the committee in the past.

Hopkinton Village Greenway: The committee discussed a potential improvement to the route to address safety concerns on Hopkinton Road.

Putney Hill to Cross Road: James will complete blue blazing; Cleve and others will complete trail work for a trail opening, tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 21st. Details of the event and publicity will be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for October 11th.

Rollins Lot: the committee discussed long-range plans for a trail on the Rollins Lot from Contoocook Center. Ron reported that an Eagle Scout may be available to work on the project.

Stevens Rail Trail: Bob reported on progress made by the Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. They were awarded a grant by the NH Bureau of Trails to improve the surface of the Stevens Rail Trail in Hopkinton and create a multiuse path from the end of the Stevens Rail Trail to route 103 in Warner by exit 7. Chuck Rose will be involved; work has not yet started.

Respectfully submitted, Lucia Kittredge