

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HOPKINTON, NH
MEETING MINUTES – Approved 2-21-19
November 13, 2018, 7:00 pm; Planning Office, Town Hall

Members present: Lucia Kittredge, Chair; Melissa Jones, Cleve Kapala, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Bob LaPree; Pierre Vanden Borre. Also attending: Bonnie Christie

Meeting minutes from October 11, 2018 accepted. Next meeting: no meeting in December. Next meeting to be scheduled.

Review Putney Hill to Cross Road Trail Opening: the opening on October 21st was very successful with over 70 hikers attending despite a cold windy day and a Patriots game that afternoon. All agreed that it was a great community event and demonstrated the support for Hopkinton's trail network. Four out of five members of the Select Board attended with their families. Sara Persechino posted photos of the event on the town Facebook page. Cleve thanked all of the private landowners personally.

Rob suggested that we sponsor two trail walks per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Lucia will find out the date of the National Trails Day for a possible trail walk. Cleve announced that the Recreation Department will again hold its annual First Walk on the Greenway with activities at Kimball Cabins.

The Central NH Regional Planning Commission has prepared a draft map of the new trail. The committee reviewed various options and agreed that the map should include the Hopkinton Greenway and the connection to the Putney-Cross trail. Lucia will work with CNHRPC on the map and send it around by email for comments, along with draft text for the website.

Trail improvements, maintenance, signage and blazing:

Sections of the Greenway and other trails will be re-blazed in the spring. The sign at Hawthorne Forest has fallen; Ron will work with the Conservation Commission to install a new sign. Bob showed the final design for the new private landowner signs. The Conservation Commission approved funds, Bob ordered the signs from Voss; Cleve will organize installed with landowner permission. Additional signs are needed for the connector to Putney Hill and Cross Road. Rob recommends using the NH Prison sign shop as the City of Concord is doing. He will get samples and costs and will make a list of proposed signs.

Pierre and Cleve discussed the possibility that Blackwater Nordic Ski Club may groom classic trails at Bohanan Farm this winter. They are no longer grooming at Gould Hill Orchard due to high winds and difficulty of keeping snow on trails. Ron discussed a proposed timber sale on Bohanan and the possibility for improved access to the Corser Hill loop trail.

Cleve, Ron and Melissa Jones will set up a time to meet on First Parsonage Road (Class 6) to discuss improvements for horse use. Ron provided background on the existing footbridge.

Trail use guidelines: discussion postponed until comments from Neal Cass are received.

Landowner relations: Lucia will work with Lee Wilder on a year -end letter of appreciation to all private landowners who have signed trail agreements.

Website and communication with trail users: Pierre will work on creating a Facebook page for Trail Users to communicate about upcoming events and trail conditions. The FB page would have a link to the Conservation Lands website for maps and more information. Lucia will work with Kathy Barnes to add the Putney-Cross trail, and make other updates to the website including a clear communication about hunting and the need for caution and orange clothing during hunting season.

Rollins Trail: Ron reported that he has found an Eagle Scout candidate interested in helping with the proposed trail on the Rollins Lot. The Scout will work with Ron to flag the trail in the spring and organize a work day for scouts to cut the trail. Ron would use power tools and supervise construction of a boardwalk (funds were approved by the HCC). Parking will be in the landing areas on Little Tooky Road, or in the village for walkers who want a longer route through the cemetery to the Rollins Trail. The committee will work with Cemetery Trustees on signage through the cemetery. A kiosk for trail information in Riverside Park is a long-term goal and another possible Eagle Scout project.

Public comment: Bonnie Christie asked about plans for a trail on Cross road. She was referred to the Select Board who has jurisdiction over the Class 6 road.

The Sub-Committee went into non-public session at 8:20 to discuss landowner updates.

Rob Knight made a motion, seconded by Cleve Kapala, to adjourn to non-public meeting, RSA 91 A:3 II (d) Acquisition of real estate. Roll call: LaPree - Yes, Kittredge – Yes; Knight – Yes; Klemarczyk – Yes; Kapala – Yes; Jones – Yes; Vanden Borre - Yes . The Committee adjourned to non-public session at 8:20 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:40 PM. Rob Knight made a motion, seconded by Cleve Kapala, to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.

Bonnie Christie left the meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Kittredge, Chair