

Lee Trails Committee Minutes **August 31, 2022 @ 7 PM**

Members Present: Deb Sugerman (Liaison/Chair), Martin Thornton (Secretary), Chris Regan, Dennis Regan, Kent Kasper, Paul McComiskey,

Approval of Minutes of July 5, 2022: It was noted that the meeting of 27 July 2022 was canceled, as there were not enough members available for a quorum. Chris Regan moved to accept the minutes. Dennis Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Reports/Old Business

Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting.

- Report to the Conservation Commission is now submitted in written form prior to the Conservation Commission meeting. A copy was sent to the Trails Committee members and can be found on the Trails share site under General Committee information/Agendas and Minutes. Other details are included in the notes below.

Writing Projects

- Deb Sugerman reported the Esker QR code draft is finished. There has been positive feedback that the information and format is easy to read and understand on both computer and cell phone screens. There was a comment received from the Trails Tuesday Facebook posting that mentioned the background was too busy. Martin Thornton had a concern on the graphic showing the glacier was green, the same color as the image showing the land. It is hard to recognize the glacier is ice. This graphic was copied and referenced from <https://geography.name/esker/> and not sure it can be edited.
- Our next step is to modify our other draft writings into the same style. Drafts are located on the share site under Writing Drafts. The following members signed up to modify the write ups:
 - Glacial Erratic: Kent Kasper (MJMF)
 - Kettle Hole: Martin Thornton (MJMF)
 - Bogs: Paul McComiskey (TF)
 - Stone Walls: Dennis Regan (TF)
 - Vernal Pools: Chris Regan (TF)

Trail/bridge projects

- MJMF Abutter walk and site review: Kent Kasper reported the abutter letters were sent out by the Town Administrator the same day requested giving about a two week notice for the walk. We had one abutter attend the site walk. Larry Hamilton was very knowledgeable about the forest. He was pleased with how we had routed the trail to minimize the impact on the abutters while showcasing the demonstration forest harvest area and glacial erratic. He mentioned that the layered boulder probably had not traveled far and could possibly match the rock formation at the RT 155 cut. Martin Thornton mentioned Kent should talk to Don Quigley who had some knowledge on the boulder from a geologist.
- MJMF Bridge across Dube Brook: Discussion on availability to build the bridge was undertaken. Money will come from the approved ARPA balance. The following plan was determined: Order the wood by the 16th of September. Martin and Paul will pre-cut the wood prior to the haul in date. Deb Sugerman will clarify where the wood should be delivered. Haul in the wood to the site 23 September, 9-12 AM. Build the bridge 24 September, 10 AM - 4 PM. Any finish work date will be determined if needed.
- LRP 5 ft bridge lead up. Additional fill will be added to the new 5ft bridge ends to ease the access and harden the entrances. After a general discussion the work date will be 10 September at 10 AM.
- Updated Town Forest (TF) Bridge evaluation: Martin Thornton reported on the site evaluation of the bridges that remain to be replaced. He presented photos of the bridges and cost estimates which are on the share site.
 - Deb Sugerman reported the Conservation Commission approved \$1050 for replacement of bridges 1 & 3 and replacement of treads on bridge 8 per the evaluation summary. We have a total of \$1500 allocated in the CC budget for bridges in FY 2022-2023. For FY 2023-2024 the following amounts have been submitted: \$1650 for Bridge 8, \$450 for Bridge 7, and \$700 for Bridge 5.
 - Martin Thornton noted we should look at adding a middle beam on bridge 8 and can look at using material from Bridge 1, 3, or a local tree as this will be temporary until we can

replace the bridge. New treads used on Bridge 8 will be re-used on the replacement bridge similar to what was done on Bridge 4. There was discussion brought up by Kent Kasper on possibly relocating Bridge 8. Martin Thornton displayed maps from the GraniteView tool that showed a possible area that could be explored downstream. We will look into that when the area is no longer in drought condition.

- SRPC mapping will occur in early October. The Trail in the north end of MJMF will need to be finalized, better defined blaze tags, and preliminary brush clearing done in time for the mapping. Final clearing of the trail can be done at a later date. Kent Kasper will set up a date with Martin Thornton to update the trail and blazes.
- Trail signs: Chris Regan reported the Bog and Wheelwright Trail name signs are posted. Will need a post installed for the Wheelwright Trail to The Roundabout Trail junction. Martin Thornton has a post and will get together with Chris and Dennis Regan to locate and install the post and sign. There was some concern that the blue on the Wheelwright sign was not bright enough. Martin Thornton suggested they use two coats of paint on the letters to get the letters to stand out better. He had the completed signs for the "The Roundabout Trail" and "The Walkabout Trail" and gave those to Chris and Dennis Regan. They will get those installed.
- LTC By Law Revision: After general discussion the wording of the by-law change will be:
"Any member of a commission appointed in accordance with RSA 36-4:3, as amended, may, after a public hearing, if requested, be removed for cause by the appointing authority. Notice of the public hearing shall be provided to the subject member at least 7 days in advance of the public hearing date and shall cite the reason for the proposed removal from office. A notice of decision shall be provided to the subject member within 7 days of the date of the public hearing. Four consecutive unexcused absences, or being absent from fifty percent (50%) or more of the Trail Committee's posted meetings during a 12-month period, shall be considered Neglect of Duty and cause for removal."
There was a general discussion on how the notification procedure would work. Members and Alternates that do not meet the 50% of meetings requirement will be notified by email. They will be given a choice of: Start attending, Change to being on the Volunteer as needed list, or Drop out. The By Law wording and proposal were sent out at the June meeting, thereby proper notification has been made to the members and alternatives. A motion was made by Deb Sugerman to adopt the amendment and seconded by Kent Kasper. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

- Kiosk: Conservation Commission did not approve of the proposed Kiosk from Timber Homes. In further review we will look at building our own from plans on the internet and observing other Kiosk in the area. This will be a winter project to design and build the Kiosk within the allocated funds.
- Expense Procedures: A new process effective immediately was introduced by Deb Sugerman to improve the accounting and record keeping of our expenditures. A spreadsheet is on the share site with the process and tracking information. Folders are to be created linked to the spread sheet entries with photos and/or copies of the expense report and receipts.
- Historical Society and other Notices on the Bog Trail: There was some discussion of the proliferation of Bill Boards on the Bog Trail as it leads away from the library. Dennis Regan will be attending the next Historical Society meeting and will solicit input on how their Posters could be better presented. There is great information on the posters but they need to be incorporated into a Kiosk or more visually appealing manner. Kent Kasper suggested we look at a possible presentation trail looping into the Parsonage property that the town now owns. That trail would be used for informational postings by the different Town organizations. Something to consider at a future date.
- The Library is looking at doing a Scarecrow project for families along the Bog Trail. That will be a temporary activity and display for the fall.
- Lee Town Fair 17 September: Deb Sugerman will post a signup sheet for coverage. Several members will be helping out at multiple community booths. There was a question if we would have power to have a slide show. Deb Sugerman will check. Set up needs to be completed by 12:30 PM. The Tractor parade will kick off the Fair at 1 PM. We can break down after 7:30 PM.
- Other: There are discussions in the CC meeting on Mountain Bike usage, particularly in the Town Forest. Usage of the area is defined in the easement as Dispersed Passive Recreation. Deb Sugerman looked up the definition and that includes Hiking, Skiing, and Biking. It is activities that do not involve active facilities such as a pickle ball court or structures. She is asking for us to gather information on how other trail areas handle the bicycle traffic. Kent Kasper will contact The New England Biking Association

(NEBA) on how they interact in other areas. The rest of the team should see what they can find out and report back before the next CC meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for 28 September 2022.

Minutes submitted by: Martin Thornton