

Lee Trails Committee Minutes September 28, 2022 @ 7 PM

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

Approval of Minutes of August 31, 2022: Chris Regan asked about the amount of the money in the Conservation Budget for the Bridges and Kiosks. Once discussed, no update was required of the minutes. Kent Kasper moved to accept the minutes. Dennis Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Reports:

Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting, Deb Sugerman reported:

- Work will be done at the Wadleigh Falls Canoe Launch area and will be sponsored by the Lamprey Advisory Committee.
- Little River Park: Planting grass or other materials will not be effective to stop the erosion at the upper end of Ridge Trail. The current recommendation is to thin out the scrub trees along one side of the drop off and pile them over the erosion area. Kent Kasper suggested we could look at making a diagonal trail through the scrub growth that would not cause erosion while we are clearing out the brush. A date range of October 19th to the 29th was decided to present back to the CC on when to do the work.

Writing Projects

- Reminder to work at modifying the writing drafts to follow the format established by the Esker document

Bridge Projects

- Boulder Bridge was completed on 24 September. An article will be appearing in the town e-crier written by Don Quigley. Deb Sugerman has posted an article and pictures in the Trail Tuesday Facebook post. The trail has been cleared, but further work needs to be done to mow some of the low bush blueberry areas. Paint blazes and signs need to be completed. A motion was made by Kent Kasper to call the trail the Boulder Trail. Seconded by Leslie Chinburg, and passed unanimously. Martin Thornton has blanks prepared and will be making a trail name sign and a couple of directional signs. A "Private" sign will be made and posted on the rogue spur trail.
- Discussion was undertaken on the priorities for the next bridge build. It was decided Bridge #3 in the Town Forest will be replaced next. That bridge has a broken beam and is in bad condition. A date of 3 December 2022 was set for replacement.
- There is a possible change on the Wheelwright Trail to move the #8 bridge a short way up stream to an area where the crossing would be shorter and firmer ground. It is on the boundary of the Conservation land and we may need permission of the adjacent land owner to route the trail and bridge in that location. Deb Sugerman will follow up with the land owner of the re-route of the trail. Martin Thornton will walk the change with her on Thursday 29 September at 10 AM.

Alternate Members

- We thanked the former Alternate Members for the assistance they provided the Trail Committee when we first started. Their priorities have shifted and they have resigned their positions. Some will remain on the Volunteer call up list to assist with work days as they are able. After a discussion it was decided to offer up Alternative Membership to three of the regular Volunteers that have been active in the work days. Deb Sugerman will contact them to determine their interest in meeting the commitment level to be an Alternative Member.

T-Shirts

- At the Lee Town Fair it was mentioned about getting T-Shirts to identify members. In discussion it was mentioned that Orange would be a good color as it is hunting season at this time. Even though hunting is not allowed on the town property, it is allowed on adjacent land. Martin Thornton asked Steve Bullek about the DPW shirts and those are done by Gary Kustra in town but are of simple design. He mentioned to check with the Fire Department as they use a person in Greenland. Martin Thornton will follow up on the vendors. Leslie Chinburg will work with people she knows about coming up with a design.

Library Scarecrow

- Leslie Chinburg is heading up the Trail Committee Library Scarecrow project. There will be a work session 8 October at 10 AM to put together a Scarecrow. Bring along supplies and will see what can be created.

Town of Lee Volunteer and Employee Appreciation Diner

- A dinner will be sponsored by the Town at the Safety Complex on October 13th at 6 PM. This will be in appreciation of the Volunteers and Employees of Lee. They are looking for a rough head count. A poll was taken of members of which Deb Sugerman will submit.

Rotary Support

- Deb Sugerman had a follow up call from the Rotary contact on members attending our Bridge build work session at the Maud Jones Memorial Forest. There were no members in attendance. The contact will follow up with his membership.
- It was suggested that Dennis Regan look at setting up a work session with the Rotary members to install Puncheons in the Town Forest. If he can get a firm commitment from Rotary members, then Paul McComiskey will prepare the lumber for the project. The Project would be undertaken in the November time frame.

Mapping

- The Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) has been notified that we are ready to map the trails. We are waiting for Stephen Geis to provide a date when he will be available to walk the trails with committee members.
- There was concern on the impact the possible re-route of Bridge #8 in the Town Forest may have. It is a minor re-route but a big improvement on bridge location. We can map the current trail and the alternate route, then advise which one to use when they create the maps.
- "All Trails" website has misleading and incorrect information. Kent Kasper and Dennis Regan have full licenses. Kent Kasper will follow up with their Service Team to see if we can take control of the content. We can then correct the information. We will be able to provide them with better maps once that project is completed.

Other

- Three Tick Warning signs were provided by the CC and it was requested we post on the Kiosk in each Trail area.
- Historical Society postings are still an open item. Dennis Regan will be discussing options with them. Perhaps they should have a Kiosk at the trailhead or in front of their building with their information posted.

Next meeting is scheduled for 26 October 2022.

Minutes submitted by: Martin Thornton