

## Lee Trails Committee Minutes January 26, 2022

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

**Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2022:** Dennis Regan moved to accept the minutes as written, Leslie Chinburg, seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Reports

- Conservation Commission Report, Deb Sugerman reported:
  - At the Conservation Commission Meeting 25 Jan 2022, Martin Thornton presented the proposal for a Northern loop trail addition to the Maud Jones Memorial Forest. He reviewed the presentation with the Trails group and it is posted on the Share Site under "Lee Trails Committee/Maud Jones Forest/Bridges". There were a number of questions answered by the Conservation Commission. A site walk is scheduled for 2 Feb 2022 Wednesday at 3 PM. A number of tasks were outlined in the presentation that would be undertaken with the first one being to obtain the Conservation Commission and Select Board approval to proceed.

## Maud Jones Memorial Forest Northern Trail Proposal

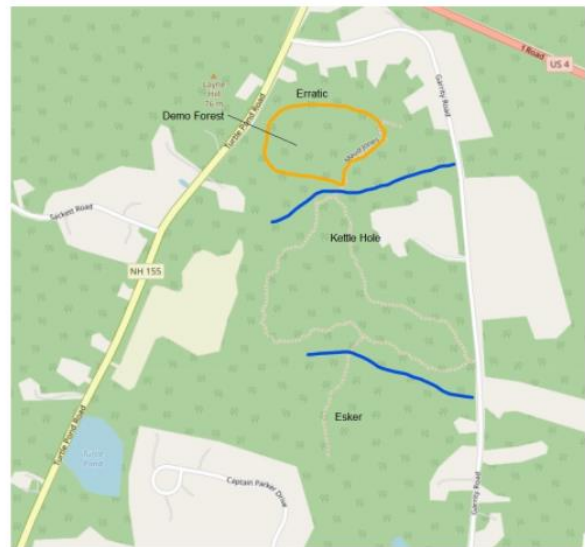
Currently there are two trails in the Maud Jones Forest.

The "Esker Trail" is a one-way trail along a Glacier Esker in the southern section.

The "Kettle Hole Trail" is a central loop trail going past a Kettle Hole.

We propose a third trail - "Glacial Erratic Trail" in the northern section of the property shown in orange on the map.

Lee has seen an increase in popularity with the town trails as people recreate locally. By adding this loop to the Maud Jones Memorial Forest, we will introduce people to a diverse woodland while providing an additional trail for enjoyment.



MJ Northern Trail Jan 2022

- Deb Sugerman reported the QR signs have been received and handed them out to the group for review. They were able to scan the QR codes and see the web sites that had been set up under the Conservation Commission site for this project. The descriptions may be read while some one is on the trail, or can be reviewed at any time at the Conservation Commission site. The feature descriptions we are producing are shorter to engage the person walking the trail. The Conservation Commission would like to review our descriptions when they are completed. Lisa Speropolous has been assisting on the review and updates of the drafts.



- Deb Sugerman has noted that the closed trails at the Dam in the Lee Town Forest are still being used. People are walking over or around the barriers and signs that were posted. We may need to look at better ways to block off the trail, or add signage to have people use the new trails. Kent Kasper noticed that most people were using the new trail at Bridge 1 & 2 but some were still traversing the steep and icy hill trail. Chris Regan asked if we could put up a sign specifically telling people to stay on the trail. Martin Thornton made Trail direction signs but they were not installed before the winter weather arrived. Will continue the discussion on ideas how to encourage people to use the safer trail options.
- There are four Grants that we may be able to apply for trail maintenance. The AARP Community Challenge Grant opens up now. The purpose of the Grant is for vibrant public access to community property. The average grant is around \$11,000 and 75% of the grants are for around \$15,000. It could cover money for the Kiosks, Signs, Maps, and Bridge repair. Deadline for the grant is March 22. We will be looking at submitting a proposal. In discussion, it was noted the town would be joining the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC), which will allow us to use that resource for creating trail maps.
- The Writing Project is progressing. Most of the drafts have started the review process. The drafts are open for everyone to review and comment. The updates have been going along well.
  - Kent Kasper noted he found a good write up on the Bog in the town forestry management plan. That work will need to have the proper citation for reference. Our draft should be updated to be more specific and interactive with the people that will be reading it on the trails. Kent Kasper will continue to refine the document.
  - Leslie Chinburg will do a write up on the Vernal Pools.
  - Chris Regan wrote up the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The Conservation Commission is going to do an extensive web site on invasive species in Lee including the EAB. Do we need a separate document? Our descriptions are shorter and specific to the UNH Ash Tree study area. Martin Thornton can provide a White Ash tree identification sign similar to the ones placed in the Maud Jones Memorial Forest at the research location. We will give future consideration on what we want to do with this write up, and the area in the Lee Town Forest.
- Trail Inventory – Deb Sugerman asked for us to look at the Durham NH Conservation Commission site which was done on a computer monitor set up in the room. Several URL locations were reviewed with the prominent examples:
  - <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/conservation-lands-parks>
  - Conservation site: Doe Farm
    - [https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc\\_conservation/doe-farm](https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/doe-farm)
  - Trail Map
    - [https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/conservation\\_commission/page/19571/trail\\_map\\_and\\_property\\_summary\\_doe\\_farm.pdf](https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/conservation_commission/page/19571/trail_map_and_property_summary_doe_farm.pdf)

This website shows a possibility of what we could do with the Town of Lee site. There is an introduction to each area. Natural Feature paragraphs, links to maps, and other articles. The maps were made by the SRPC.

- New Business
  - Voting for the Chair and Secretary was undertaken
    - Deb Sugerman was nominated to be Chair by Chris Regan and seconded by Dennis Regan. No other nominations were received and a vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.
    - Martin Thornton was nominated to be Secretary by Paul McComiskey and seconded by Chris Regan. No other nominations were received and a vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.
    - Per the Bylaws last week, the eight (8) Alternate Members need to be assigned staggered three year terms. Martin Thornton made the motion that we follow the attendance sheet and assign the term renewal time in order as was done for the regular members. Chris Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved. The terms will be: Ben Lilyestrom:2023, Dan Couture:2024, Dan Mayton:2025, Frank Eitler:2023, Judy Eitler:2024, Lisa Speropolous:2025, Steve Tall:2023, Tom Hooper:2024
  - Planning next Spring Work Days – General discussion was undertaken. A suggested list will be posted on the share site. Some highlights discussed:
    - Open up a trail out to Wheelwright Pond. Trail hardening will need to occur around the Bridge. Leslie Chinburg coordinated the bridge repair this fall. Martin Thornton moved some of the planks from Bridge 6 to harden the entrances but further left over planks from that bridge, and from bridge 4 when it is finished, could be used to make better puncheons leading up to the brook crossing. Kent Kasper surveyed the area and suggested we could look at creating a trail to the pond using the existing snowmobile trail to avoid the gravel access lane. It could loop back to intersect the Yellow trail and become an addition to the Town Forest system.
    - The Ridge Trail in the Little River Park needs better erosion control. Re-route of trail? Add in pilings and cross bars? Need to study solutions.
    - Maud Jones Esker Trail Bridge – will hold off on that improvement and concentrate on higher priority areas in the town.
    - Maud Jones Northern Loop – see earlier note on Northern trail loop presentation.
    - Trail naming contest for Lee Town Forest. Contest did not work with the school for the Maud Jones Memorial Forest but we could open up to the town residents. May want to wait on that until the trail improvements are further along.
    - Old Mill Area – Need to establish and blaze a trail in this property. The property is located North of Rt 4 on the east side of the Old Mill Rd.
    - Boundary Signage: Add No Hunting signs. Need a sign every 100 yards, 2” lettering with owner name & address, and no further than 6’ off the ground. Add Conservation Property markers along boundary. Does that belong to us, or is this the Conservation Commission’s responsibility?
- Next Meeting will be 23 February 2022 at 7 PM