

## **Lee Trails Committee Minutes** **February 23, 2022 @ 7 pm**

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

A zoom connection was made available, but no one zoomed in to join the in-person meeting.

**Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2022:** Chris Regan provided a list of minor typographic corrections. Dennis Regan moved to accept the minutes as amended per the list. Leslie Chinburg, seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Reports**

- Conservation Commission (CC) Report, Deb Sugerman reported:
  - The Conservation Commission approved the addition of a Northern trail in the Maud Jones Memorial Forest per the presentation discussed in our last meeting and the site walk. A permit request will be made to the NH DES for the Brook crossing by David Shay, CC. We will need to wait for a response from them to see if a detailed application is required. Deb Sugerman will submit a request for Martin Thornton and Deb Sugerman to meet with the Select Board on 21 March for their approval.
  - AARP Grant, Deb Sugerman reported that she attended a workshop on applying for the grant. They received around 3500 requests last year from across the country and only awarded 244 grants. They favor grants that are part of a larger project plan. Deb Sugerman discussed with the CC and we will submit our request as part of the overall plan to improve access to the Town owned Conservation Lands.
- Writing Projects: Discussion was held on the progress with the drafts of the Natural Features and History of the trails.
  - Leslie Chinburg started a "QR Code: Trail Etiquette" draft covering a multi-user overview of trail etiquette. Deb Sugerman asked that she look into more specific guidelines on how other organizations balance bicycle usage with walking trails. Are their guidelines covering usage in areas subject to muddy conditions? Kent Kasper suggested looking at information that nimba-bike.org publishes.
  - Trails Inventory outline was provided as a suggestion on the backside of the agenda handout. Those are the next writing projects - each trail group should have a draft by the next meeting.
- Chris and Dennis Regan provided updates on the length of trails in the Town Forest. This will be used for quotes from Strafford Regional Planning Commission for providing maps. ● The Winter Status of the bridges was discussed. Several bridges and stream crossings are being monitored for high water and ice conditions during the winter.
  - Deb Sugerman has pictures of the culvert at Little River Park with the ice and water near the top of the crossing. It was not determined if the culvert was plugged or the water was not flowing fast enough through the culvert. Further monitoring will be undertaken.
  - Kent Kasper posted pictures of Bridge #2 surrounded by ice on the Share site "Lee Trails Committee/Lee Town Forest/Bridges" and mentioned that it was good we elevated the bridge when it was built as the surface is mostly above the ice. The legacy Bridge #1 is under the ice. It will be monitored to determine if the bridge is spiked into the ground sufficiently to withstand any ice movement.
  - As we take pictures of the Bridges they should be named and posted to the individual area's share folders under "Bridges".

- The meeting was broken into work sessions for each area to determine Community/Volunteer work days this year. Dates were established for the first work sessions
  - General questions and discussion
    - What is the budget? Money was included in the proposed town budget for 2022/2023 for bridges, signage, and maps. A break out was not available at the meeting.
    - Town Forest bridge #4 completion is being funded through the American Recoveries Act and has been approved by the Select Board. We need to wait for dry weather to complete the bridge.
    - Little River Park bridges have been allocated from the current budget.
    - Does the money for LRP and TF Bridge #4 continue into the Town Fiscal year 2023 or will materials need to be purchased before the Fiscal Year End?
    - Posting of No Hunting and Conservation Boundaries – Which group is responsible? Deb Sugerman will discuss with the CC and advise.
  - Bridge building will be done with the core members of the Trails Committee and dates assigned by weather and member availability.
  - Little River Park - Leslie Chinburg and Paul McComiskey > April 30 for trail brush clearing and update of trail markings. This will be in combination with the Maud Jones Memorial Forest workday.
    - The Ridge Trail will need further study on how the trail ends at the steep sand bank. People continue to walk down the bank causing erosion.
    - They will need to meet the new Library Director in regards to posting the Storyboards in the spring.
  - Town Forest – Chris and Dennis Regan > Clear brush and update corner markers scheduled for May 14. Additional days will be scheduled for hardening the wet areas along the White Trail beyond the Dam and for the Durgin Park/Wheelwright Pond Trail.
    - The suggestion was made by Kent Kasper that we should number the intersections. Those would be included in the new maps to aid in guidance.
    - Bog Trail designation. It should be considered to start at the library and run to the Yellow trail. It is blazed Orange now but will need a different color to distinguish it from a connector Trail.
  - Maud Jones Memorial Forest – Kent Kasper and Martin Thornton > April 30 for trail brush clearing and update of trail markings. This will be in combination with the Little River Park workday. Building of the bridge for the Northern Loop will be pending Select Board approval, funding, and NH DES permit request. Trail marking and clearing of the new trail will not occur until after the bridge is built. We do not want to create traffic across the brook without a proper crossing.
  - Old Mill – Paul McComiskey and Deb Sugerman to meet with Anne Tappan on plans for that area. Deb will check in with Anne.

Next Meeting Scheduled for 30 March 2022