

Lee Trails Committee Minutes
March 30, 2022 @ 7 pm

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

Guest: Anne Tappan, Lee Conservation Commission

Guest Presentation by Anne Tappan

Anne Tappan requested to address two topics of concern in regards to Trail Maintenance and a List of Possible Projects of Interest.

- There will be a project to control Japanese Knotweed in the Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary (JFWS). This will consist of installing a wire grid mesh and monitoring the area for invasive species. Handouts were provided in regards to Invasive Species.
- This afternoon there was a site walk at the Old Mill town property to discuss how that land will be managed. Martin Thornton had provided a Wildlife Impact map using the New Hampshire GraniteView map online tool. It was decided the habitat would be managed for early succession growth. Brochures were provided on maintaining habitat for wildlife. It was requested Martin Thornton be a part of this group although he was not at the site walk.
- In Little River Park there is an Early Succession area being maintained which has a strong Woodcock population. Work is needed to control the invasive species in that area. Garlic Mustard needs to be eradicated on a regular basis. This is a problem in the JFWS and people are needed to assist in the eradication
- There is a stand of old Apple trees in the Town Forest behind the Public Safety Complex and a workshop was held on Saturday by the Conservation Commission (LCC). There are about 15 in the JFWS that need to be pruned.
- Most of these projects are season specific and others are ongoing projects. Anne Tappan is reaching out to Nature Groupie and would like to have anyone on the Trails Committee who is interested participate. Send her an email of which projects you are interested in participating and she will follow up with you.

Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2022: Dennis Regan moved to accept the minutes. Chris Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reports

- Conservation Commission (LCC) Report, Deb Sugerman reported:
 - The grant for the AARP funding has been submitted. They will notify us in mid-May if we will receive a grant. This will be for 4 Kiosks, 3 Maps, 3 Bridges, and 3 Benches.
 - Dennis Regan brought up the Lamprey River Advisory Committee has a grant program for trails. Deb Sugerman will follow up with Dennis Regan on the details for that program.
 - The grant for the Trail Fund is due for submission by April 15. We would be notified by May 15 if we will receive a grant. This will be for 4 Bridges, 2 in LRP and 2 in MJMF (The new trail and Esker Trail)
 - Martin Thornton presented the proposal for the new trail in the northern section of the Maude Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF) to the Select Board (BOS) on March 21. The new trail was approved by the BOS. We will go before the BOS on April 18 to request approval to replace the Esker Trail Bridge. This bridge was installed by the Captain

Parker residents. It does not meet any standards, is too narrow, is prone to blocking the water flow, and being covered with ice in the winter. The LCC has approved replacing the Esker Bridge.

- The LCC has requested a tour of the new bridges and trail re-locations that were accomplished last year and proposed for this year. Dennis and Chris Regan will be in charge of that walk. Deb Sugerman will set a date with Dawn Genes for some time the week of April 18. A public notice will be published.
- Martin Thornton presented a snapshot of the capabilities of the University of New Hampshire's online mapping service GraniteView mapping program to the LCC. Martin Thornton explained to the group that by turning on different layers in the program you can access geological, natural, aerial view, and wildlife impact features. The different combination of the layers provides a guide to routing of trails and the suitability of areas for trail placement. A handout of the MJMF New Trail was provided to the LCC. Electronic copies of the maps for the MJMF (for the new trail), Old Mill Reserve, and Town Forest (TF) were mailed to the Trails Members and to the LCC.
- There will be a "Trails Tuesday" on the Conservation Commission Facebook page. This past Tuesday announced our first work day. We are looking for ideas that would be of interest to the town for publication. Some quick ideas would be: Proper clothing and shoes, Picking up after your dog and the environmental impact, Reading Blazes (Dennis will provide graphics), and Bicycle Etiquette. There is a folder set up on the share site for adding in ideas or send along a note to Deb Sugerman.
- A Management Plan will need to be developed for the Old Mill Reserve. The LCC will be looking for input from the Trails committee members
- There was a discussion on how we will organize the work in the upcoming year. Deb Sugerman will be working on the high level organization, grants, and planning. The work days and construction sessions will be managed by the committee members. This will allow a better distribution of the workload and engage the members that are most familiar with what needs accomplished for the work sessions.
- Writing Projects
 - Dennis Regan has submitted a great write up on the Cemetery behind the Library.
 - Deb Sugerman is in the process of reviewing the documents on the share site. Once the reviews are done, they will be shared with the LCC for review
 - The LCC website is being updated and once that is completed, the Trails website will be updated. We need to have the writings completed with the reviews in time for the update to the Trails website.

New Business

- Planning for Spring Work Days – Members split up into work groups to inventory supplies, fill out the planning worksheet on the share site, and organize what we will accomplish at each work day and area.
 - Volunteers are starting to sign up for the work days
 - Discussed how to reserve tools from the UNH Extension / SELT tool crib. Cannot reserve on the web but need to contact Emma Tuttein directly. Submit what you need for tools and Deb Sugerman will coordinate.
 - Not sure if the writings will be approved in time to include in any updates to the Kiosk. Do not plan on doing that for the first session.
 - Will have one more meeting before the first work day for a final review

- Discussion on being aware of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and trail trimming. Infestations can be spread on clothes and tools. Anne Tappan will walk with those interested to scout out areas that may be impacted by the work days.
- Next Meeting will April 28, 2022

Submitted by Martin Thornton