

Chair Liz Kotowski opened the meeting at 6:41 PM. Other members present were Celia Abrams, Susan Mooney, Sam Demeritt, Jonathan Balanoff, and Kortney Dorow.

Note: Jim Salge and Christian Matthews have resigned from membership status but are included as volunteers for projects and events.

Minutes: The minutes for April 2018 are not yet available for review.

Abrams wrote the minutes for May 3, 2018. Motion by Mooney, seconded by Demeritt to accept the minutes of May 3; there were five (5) yeas and one (1) abstention.

Map Binders: Kotowski is assembling two binders for trails maps and supporting materials for public use. Blaisdell Memorial Library and the Recreation Department will each have a binder. Several maps are posted on the Trails Committee's link on the Conservation Commission's (CC) web page. Members reviewed the documents and maps to be included in the binders. Edits have been made.

Trails Committee Webpage: Members reviewed the present content on the Trails Committee's (TC) page. A "face lift" is in order: new prose will be written to connect better with other items on the CC web page; links will be added to maps and other sources of information; photos may be changed and/or added.

Action Item: Kotowski to add Town Office preliminary trail maps to the TC Drive. Other details: remove Rosenfield-Mallette from the Drive; rename Merriam-Daggett and Tasker parcels, both owned by the town, to be identified as "Marsh Woods" (does the Business Office and Select Board know?); the Kennard property, also owned by the town, renamed the "William E. Kennard Forest" as requested by the previous owner, the last Kennard generation to have owned the parcel.

Earth Day: Members discussed the first annual Nottingham Earth Day Festival held on May 12, 2018; what worked, what didn't. Some suggestions: a schedule of events be available to the public prior to the event itself, by social media and a Deerfield Fair type of brochure; change the timing of the day, maybe start earlier and end earlier in the afternoon; change wetlands walk time, race schedule. The theme of the CC's booth was "Take a Hike in Nottingham." Several residents signed up to be volunteers for trail work when scheduled. Dorow reported that the Recreation Department's silent auction netted approximately \$500, to be donated to the CC for its projects, most likely for the TC.

Meeting schedule: It was decided that monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month are optimal. The next meeting will be July 5, 2018.

Projects to tackle:

- Terninko – Make signage with arrows to direct trail walkers. Kotowski will inquire about how to make these using corrugated plastic board and some sort of marker or tape for the arrows.
- Kennard – Connect the two forks at the back boundary to make a loop so the trail system will be a lollipop design. Also note natural features along the trail in situ and on the map.

Note: Will revisit these two projects at next meeting, what works or does not work. How to engage volunteers. To this, Balanoff offered to lead a small crew, four volunteers maybe, for a trail work project.

Marsh Woods map revisions and NRCS Compatible Use Authorization (CUA):

Abrams reviewed the present map revisions for the Merriam-Daggett, 46.41 acre parcel along the North River. Mark West will attend to the trails and wetland crossing applications for DES and the CUAs for NRCS. Abrams will confirm with West if two separate CUA applications are required for the Merriam-Daggett and Tasker easements and if they will be submitted at the same time. West estimated that the applications would take 100 hours of his time, which he will be pleased to donate. We reviewed the aerial maps with GPS pins indicating siting locations for trails and areas requiring permits. We also reviewed the Forestry Management Plan developed by Charles Moreno. The Tasker FMP with parcel map, 47.01 acres, was also reviewed; the FMP recommends no forestry activities.

Action Items: For Merriam-Daggett: that there be invasive vegetation removal and blaze property lines. Possibly to be done in the fall. We discussed the cost of a survey or reflagging and whether the income from a timber cut could be used for such an expense. Would this be an appropriate expenditure for the Conservation Fund? NRCS paid Moreno's fee for the Management Plan. Abrams will ask West if NRCS expects that the property be logged.

Grants: None in progress at this time.

Walks and Work Days: Saturday, June 30, at 10:00 AM a walk through Marsh Woods. Also mark boundaries between properties, especially the two lots along Freeman Hall. Balanoff volunteered to do this.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. All six (6) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney