

Nottingham Conservation Commission (NCC) Nottingham Trails Committee (NTC) Meeting Minutes

Note: Meeting Date Change: From December 7, 2023 to January 4, 2024

Attending: Sam Demeritt (SD), Tom Eid (TE), Leanne Gast (LG), Debra Kimball (DK), Susan Mooney (SM)

SD opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Announcements: SD and SM attended the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (<https://www.nhacc.org/>) on November 4 in Pembroke, NH. Both SD and SM participated in workshops and collaborated with other conference participants.

Review and approve minutes of November 2, 2023: the November 2, 2023 minutes were discussed, updated, and approved. Motion to approve and second by SM and LG.

Trail maintenance, projects, and action items updates for 2023: TE hiked and provided basic clearing for the Kennard Forest, Marsh Woods, Marston Farm, and Terninko Conservation Area trails during November and December. Discussion ensued about placing some type of “return to trailhead” signage for town-managed trails. An example discussed was for Marsh Woods at the Mill Loop and Spur Trail junction, near Interpretive Hiking Trail stage #5. TE will check with Portsmouth Sign to determine sign format and costs.

Nottingham Parks and Recreation Department 2024 Spring Hiking Group: the April through June hiking schedule is available online (<https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/parks-recreation-department/pages/ii-adult-and-legacy-leader-55-programming>) and printed in the Nottingham Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring 23-24 brochure. NTC will participate in the hikes as available.

Planning for 2024 programs and projects:

- Animal tracking hike: Saturday, February 24, 2024 10:00 AM, Terninko Conservation Area, back-up date is Saturday, March 2, 10:00 AM. An animal tracking hike is scheduled based upon snow coverage. Kristen Lamb will lead the hike with TE assisting.
- Trails clean-up and management: April 13, 2024 Community Clean-up Day. NTC will participate in this annual event and identify two trails for clearing.
- April 22, 2024, Earth Day: NTC will evaluate having an Earth Day themed activity
- Hiking events and walk-and-talk activities for 2Q2024 and 3Q2024: over the next few meetings the NTC will discuss in-the-field events, such as a birding hike.

Other topics: Explore Nottingham Outdoors Guide: Interest has been expressed and discussed for creating some type of guide to encourage outdoor exploration of the town. Content could include scenic roads, conservation lands, the Four Generals Greenway, prominent cemeteries, Nottingham Square, historical properties, and hiking trails. Guide content would be based on currently approved and published materials that are publicly

available in print or online. The goal is to provide a concise and consistent structure to information and materials from multiple town groups, committees, and organizations.

The guide would provide identification and explanations of important historical and conservation-focused properties and areas that contribute to Nottingham's attractiveness and aesthetics. Initial versions of the guide could be made in a standard word processing format and provided as an electronic copy from the NCC and other town-based websites.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM; moved and seconded by DK and SM.