

**Nottingham Conservation Commission  
Trails Committee meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 3, 2021, 2021 – 6:30pm  
Submitted by Celia Abrams**

Per Executive Order 2020-17, the Nottingham Conservation Commission Trails Committee held a virtual meeting. The posted agenda provided meeting access information for members, guests, and the public via the on-line or phone-in Zoom platform links.

Present – Celia Abrams (CA), Sam Demeritt (SD), Michael Koester (MK), Melissa Katski-Berry (MB), new member Dallas Huggins (DH)

**Welcome & Announcements** – We welcomed Dallas Huggins as a new member of the Trails Committee. She has also been attending NCC meetings. SD has had an email from Chris Sterndale informing him that the governor's executive order allowing meetings to be held virtually will expire on 6/11. Unless it is renewed, we will need to go back to in-person meetings.

**Approve minutes of 5/6/21** – No edits. CA moved to approve, MK seconded, 3 ayes, 1 abstain (MB was not present yet).

**Project and Action Items review –**

- **Marsh Woods – Bridge:** CA has reimbursed Mark Wageling for the additional \$23.70 for screws. MK drafted a letter of thanks to Home Depot that will be ready to send out shortly. **Tasker Gate:** SD purchased a padlock for the Tasker gate. SD & CA closed and locked the gate on 6/1 and put barriers on either side to discourage walk-arounds. The gate will remain closed through 6/30 for wildlife safety. **Kiosk:** SD has thanked Shawn McLean & crew for promptly installing the Marsh Woods kiosk. SD confirmed there is an NCC budget line of \$300 for trail work that could be used for the kiosk panel. There is still money in Nottingham Recreation Department Conservation Fund (from Earth Day raffle). CA has not yet inquired whether Ellen Snyder or SRPC (Jackson Rand) could do the design. **Bench:** We scheduled a work date for MK, CA, IB, and perhaps others, to meet at 5:30pm on 6/9 (or rain date 6/10) to carry the TREX bench (60 #) to the mill site for installation. SD and CA visited the area on 6/1 and found a suitable site on a nearby tree, where it can be secured by a chain and pivoted to face across the river or downstream. CA will purchase lock and chain, to submit to NCC for reimbursement. We will bring tools to level the area and to remove an undetermined amount of trash buried in the duff.
- **Marston** – CA walked trails and reviewed trash sites with Kortney Dorow & Bridget Hart from the Rec Dept on 5/11. The cleanup day on 5/22 was a great success. Almost all the trash was removed along the riverbanks, and much of the treadway was raked. See photos on Drive. CA: A survey marker inconsistent with the presumed boundary was uncovered in the trail and is being investigated by Matt Kouchoukos and a volunteer surveyor. The red survey flagging put up by the volunteer was based on the S&H Land Services survey of 2012 for the town and places the trail well within the boundary.
- **Trail Work – Kennard** – MK has researched blue paint from Nelson Paint Co. and will forward info to CA. It is exterior latex designed for use on tree bark so may hold up better than what is locally available. It can be ordered with a spray attachment. CA noted we have been using a paint brush to apply the blazes, and Nature Groupies workshop suggested using disposable foam brushes to avoid cleanup with copious water. MB & IB completed the chainsaw work on the downed trees on

Kennard. **Terninko:** John Terninko's adult children are taking a more active interest in his property management. Using plywood donated by the Mooneys, Robert Abrams has created a framed plywood panel that can be used to consolidate the assortment of signs on the gate and around trailhead area. We are currently waiting for a decision from the Terninkos on its placement and content. Most content will be laminated documents for now.

### Outstanding Tasks

We prioritized outstanding tasks to identify those to be done this year so we can formally open Marsh Woods and Kennard trails.

- **Blazing** needs to be done on all Kennard trails and on the wooded section of Tasker along the sand pit access road. CA will work on blazing.
- **Directional signs** are needed at junctions for both Kennard and Marsh Woods. Marsh Woods also needs an "End of Trail" sign at the south end. CA has been working on maps with junctions noted and a list of signs needed for each. DH will create the signs, probably using corrugated plastic board and permanent markers, after CA finalizes the list. Custom permanent signs may be ordered or created in the future.
- **Closure barriers and signs** are needed on discontinued Kennard woods road sections. Barriers might be chains/ropes or felled trees.
- **Kiosk panel** at Marsh Woods must be designed, printed, and installed.
- **Treadway raking** is recommended on the grassy section of Tasker at the east end of the landfill where there are no trees convenient for blazing. The Nature Groupies Tools Library has "hoe with rake teeth" combo tools that could be borrowed for this purpose. Raking would be useful, but not essential, on other wooded trail sections of Kennard and Marsh Woods.
- **Kennard bridge** construction will be postponed for this season while we observe conditions. Per Mark West, a bank-to-bank bridge will not require a Wetlands permit of any type, but stepping stones would need a Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN).

### Other

- **Secretary position** – DH offered to be secretary. We voted 5 ayes to accept her offer.

**Adjourned** at 7:24 – SD moved, MB seconded, all 5 aye.