

Nottingham Conservation Commission

Trails Committee meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 1, 2021, 2021 – 6:30pm, Conference Room 1

Submitted by Celia Abrams

Present – Celia Abrams (CA), Sam Demeritt (SD), Leanne Gast (LG), Michael Koester (MK), Susan Mooney (SM)

Welcome & Announcements –

The meeting was opened at 6:35pm. Celia reported that she had opened the Tasker gate early this morning, per NH F&G Guidelines. SD has copy of most recent *Forest Notes* from SPNHF to be shared.

Approve minutes of 6/3/21 – CA moved to approve the minutes as amended, MK seconded, 5 ayes.

Project and Action Items review –

- **Marsh Woods – Bridge:** CA will donate her expenses for additional bridge materials and confirmed she had received the reimbursement for the materials for securing the mill site bench. NCC has also sent a thank you letter to Home Depot. **Kiosk:** Additional work was done on text and map for the kiosk panel. New text includes partner logos and trail usage icons. We discussed printing maps to be available at the kiosk for trail users to keep or return. CA will circulate the draft documents to NTC members for edits/comments and will gather more information on design and printing services and costs for a panel. SM noted there may be discounts available for SRPC design services. **Bench:** IB, MB, and CA, with assistance from SM and husband Bob, installed and secured the TREX bench at the mill site on 6/9. Household trash from the site was dug and bagged and taken to recycling center for disposal.
- **Marston** – CA participated in the 6/12 cleanup day, along with Rec Dept employees and several other local volunteers. The trails are now all raked and flagged, and trash has been removed to the extent possible. The volunteer surveyor has told Matt Kouchoukos that the old survey marker found in the trail is a traverse point: *“A traverse point is a survey marker originally set as a reference point when surveying over longer distances. It does not denote any official boundary, but should still be left in place as a fixed reference for future surveys of the land.”* CA has left a message for Kortney to find out if the town is ready to proceed with blazing the trail. NTC can provide information on materials and installation instructions.
- **Trail Work – Kennard** – CA has blazed the Lower Loop in white paint. We discussed pros and cons of various materials and methods. CA has also clarified the route of the Upper Loop trail and will blaze it in yellow. The Kennard Trail will be blue. CA will research prices on stock “Detour” and “Trail Closed” signs that could be used on this property and others. **Terninko:** The Terninko family is reviewing the most recent map and text created for the mini-kiosk. CA will email draft to NTC. Once edits are incorporated, CA will laminate so they can be put on the panel. The new text incorporates photos and trail use icons. The panel will be mounted on steel posts by the family.

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 Upper Loop and Kennard trails at Kennard and on the wooded section of Tasker along the sand pit access road. CA will continue work on blazing.
- **Directional signs** are needed at junctions for both Kennard and Marsh Woods. CA and DH have been working on the design and placement of junction signs for MW. We discussed the current proposal and circulated it among members present. CA will incorporate suggestions. CA will also email it to all NTC for comment. CA will get information about cost of custom permanent signs. MK advised against using aluminum nails with steel signs. MK has been investigating printing text on rice paper and shellacking it onto wood, so that the paper disappears.
- **Kiosk panel** at Marsh Woods must be designed, printed, and installed. Revised map and text are in progress (see above).
- **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. LG has a cordless weed whacker and will work on this (hand-held equipment does not need a CUA). CA recommended members look at Marston to appreciate the impact of raking. This is something people can work on an hour or two at a time on their own or with a buddy. Focus on Marsh Woods and Kennard.
- **Additional benches** for Marsh Woods could be built using Aldo Leopold design from standard lumber, pre-cut/drill in off-site shop and carried to sites in pieces to assemble – marsh overlook at S end of trail, north shore of first pond, floodplain forest overlook. Could be left unsecured because of weight and relatively low value. SM will research Leopold design.
- **Closure barriers and signs** on discontinued Kennard woods road sections. We agreed there would be potential liabilities for the town if we use chains/ropes to close areas and someone is injured, so we will not use these methods. MB & IB previously offered to fell trees for closure, so we plan to use this approach, along with signage.
- **Kennard bridge** construction at the culvert detour has been postponed. SM concurred that a bank-to-bank bridge does not require a permit (Statutory Permit by Notification - SPN) from DES.
- **Kennard parking** was discussed. Current use of abutter's lot across the road needs signage to direct traffic not to block backlot access. Or ask town to improve roadside parking? Concern about visibility and possible runoff into stream if ditch is filled in.
- **Kennard horse traffic** is occurring occasionally. We agreed to let this continue unless it becomes more frequent and causes damage to trail. This has also occurred on Terninko trails.

Other - none

Adjourned at 7:47 – SD moved, SM seconded, all 5 aye.