

**Nottingham Conservation Commission**  
**Trails Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2022 – 6:30 PM**  
Submitted by Leanne Gast

Attending: Celia Abrams (CA), Leanne Gast (LG), Sam Demeritt (SD), Susan Mooney (SM), and Tom Eid (TE).

- Welcome and Announcements
  - SD informed the group that Mark West from Bear Paw is leading a family walk at Kennard Forest at 9:30am on May 21, 2022. They may need some assistance with parking. CA is going to talk to Mike Kennard about parking for this event.
- Review and Approve Minutes - TE moved that we accept the minutes from March 10, 2022. SD seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Outstanding Tasks
  - Benches
    - Deb Kimball purchased the lumber to make 6 benches
      - 3 Marsh Woods, 2 Kennard, 1 Marston

MKB and IB offered to help cut the pieces. SM offered to help transport the lumber to MKB and IB. They will start with one bench to make sure everything goes together before cutting the rest.

- Kiosks
  - Allan Trant volunteered to build a kiosk for the Marston trail, but it is on hold for a bit until he has availability.
  - Marsh Woods needs a kiosk panel. We need to coordinate this with the interpretive trail information that is being worked on as well.
- Terninko property
  - CA and SD walked these trails with Ellen Snyder, who is currently working on a Stewardship Plan.
  - The Terninko family is listing 208 ac of the property soon. It will not include the house lot or the 45-ac parcel across the road. The land is not buildable. There was some discussion as to whether the town would be interested in purchasing it. SM suggested the town might prefer a private owner so taxes will still be paid on the property.
- Kennard Forest
  - CA is going to talk to Mike Kennard about parking signs on his property.
- Trail Finder

- CA is still working on text to go in their template and GIS files while we wait for staff at Trail Finder to resume posting new trails.
- Mulligan Forest
  - Several people went out to walk this trail and had difficulty finding their way after a certain point. The trail is not clearly marked and there isn't a defined footpath. CA tried to contact Deb Stevens to ask her about signage and trail clean up but has not heard back from her yet. SM will try contacting Deb.
- Clean Up Days
  - April 16, 2022 – the Nottingham Recreation Department has planned a clean-up day at the Marston Farm Trails but has not publicized a specific time. CA and TE plan to go from 9:30 to 11:30am
  - April 22, 2022 (Earth Day) – the Trails Committee will divide up into two small groups to clean up Marsh Woods and Kennard Forest from 10am-2pm. CA noted there are two large trees down on the Kennard trail that will require sawing. One of the trees is very large. We could also do some raking and clearing sticks/branches from the trails.
  - April 24, 2022 – the Trails Committee will hold a second cleanup day at Mulligan Forest from 10-2 or 11-3, depending on availability. This is a long trail that needs a lot of work. CA noted that the trail has some negative feedback on All Trails because it is so poorly marked and hasn't been maintained. It has been 15 years since the trail was originally blazed, there are no signs at junctions, and there are a lot of trees down. A new kiosk has been built but doesn't have a sign. CA will try to get in touch with Deb Stevens and/or Jim or Joe Fernald to see if we can take a vehicle back with chain saws. The trail blazes also need re-painting. Alan Rubin and his friend, Mike Erickson, as well as Brieghan Gardner offered to help with this trail. There was some discussion as to who is responsible for maintaining it. No one recalled this being discussed in the past. The Forest Society does not own the property so does not maintain it. SM offered to contact Joe and/or Jim Fernald and invite them to the May meeting to discuss maintenance.
- Project and Action Item Updates
  - Interpretive Guides
    - TE put together a timeline and content list for an interpretive trail on Marsh Woods. TE and CA walked the trail and came up with a list of approximately 24 items along the trail that fall into one of four categories: habitat, flora, fauna and heritage. TE is going to contact Voss signs to find out how much it would cost to get square or diamond

shaped metal markers, which will be used to identify the items along the trail. The markers will be numbered with paint or tape, in the same color (black on white?), and mounted on trees, and will correspond with a brief description in the guide. At the May meeting, TE would like to talk more about publicizing the guide through social media, the town newsletter, and The Forum. We will also talk more in May about how to group the items, consecutively or by trail. It was agreed we don't want too much content in the guide that it becomes overwhelming or difficult to read. An overall description of the trail and landscape will be on the kiosk.

- Adjourn--SM moved to adjourn. SD seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2022 – 6:30 PM**