

Nottingham Trails Committee
Thursday, May 3, 2018, 6:30pm
Nottingham Town Office, Conference Room #2

1. Welcome and Introductions: **the meeting came to order at 6:37 pm**
 - a. **Present:** Liz Kotowski, Susan Mooney (left at 7:35pm), Jonathan Balanoff, Celia Abrams, John Terninko (guest); Deb Kimball (arrived at 6:50). Not attending: Sam Demeritt, Krystal Costa, Leanne Gast, Heather Iworsky, Christian Matthews, Jim Salge.
2. Report on the Trail Maintenance workshop on 4/21
 - a. The workshop was attended by LK, SM, CM and wife Nicole.
 - b. **Action item:** LK will put a copy of the Trails BMP on the Drive, as well as other documents referenced in her email to the group.
 - c. The workshop was at the Chichester Town Hall and was attended by about 24 participants from around the state. It included sections on the use and safety tips of about 20 tools, most of which are available at the tool library on North River Rd in Epping. The field practice covered how to construct water bars and move large rocks.
 - d. Those NTC members who could not attend are encouraged to do so in the future; the \$25 cost will be reimbursed by the Nottingham Conservation Commission.
3. Earth Day NTC booth and walks, Saturday, 5/12, 10am – 5pm
 - a. Kortney did not receive forms for the NTC or Bear-Paw booths
 - b. **Action item:** SM and JB will be responsible for setup starting at 8:45am. Sue will drive their truck to transport tent, tables and other materials.
 - c. **Action item:** SM will be there all day; CA, SD will be there for the afternoon.
 - d. **Action items:** DK
 - i. will check with SD about picking up the bags to be handed out for the town-wide cleanup
 - ii. will write handout and send to SM on handling of materials collected
 - iii. will be at the recycle center Sat. 5/19 to accept filled bags
 - e. **Action item:** LK will make a poster about trails and copies of trail maps for North River Preserve, Mulligan (from Naomi Houle, SPNHF), Howard Swain, School Property, and Terninko. Maps could also be made available at the library.
 - f. **Action item:** CA will clean up the revised map of Terninko loop trail, including reroute, and put on the Drive/send to LK.
4. On the ground priorities: clearing, blazing, signs, tread
 - a. NTC will proceed with making trails available to the public with minimal cost and without hiring of outside vendors, doing as much of the work as possible ourselves or with volunteers.
 - b. LK showed photos of a deck bridge covered with hardware cloth and various types of trail signs, including from corrugated plastic and duct tape. Sundance Signs in Dover made the NCC painted wood signs for the river crossings; we could try making something similar with brown background and white lettering for all our properties, perhaps using a chisel or woodburning tool for the lettering.
5. Grants and fundraising

- a. Our application for the National Park Service grant for the M-D-T property was not approved, nor were any of the other applications forwarded by the LRAC. We may re-apply in a future year.
6. Merriam-Daggett/Tasker (M-D-T) update
 - a. LK received copies of the recent Forestry Management Plans (FMPs) from Moreno Forestry Associates for both the Merriam Woodlands and Tasker Property. The FMPs include maps with Moreno's proposed trail layouts that follow recommendations for protecting water quality and natural resources on the properties. The recommendations are to minimize stream/wetland crossings, keep the trails at least 25' from the edge of rivers and streams and 75' from vernal pools, where possible, as well as avoiding use or crossing of skid roads to prevent conflicts with timber operations. We will reconsider our proposed route in light of these recommendations.
7. May reconnaissance walks
 - a. A walk will be held for NTC members on the M-D-T properties Sunday, 5/20, 1 – 4pm. LK has reserved some tools for use in some minor trail maintenance as we walk.
8. Terninko update
 - a. A tentative reroute of the loop trail section at the south end, that crossed into Lee, has been flagged by CA and JT. The new route remains entirely on the Terninko property. Tree side branches have been trimmed. A draft map with the new track has been placed on the Drive.
 - b. A large hemlock had broken off at about 15' and fallen across the trail. JT, with minor assistance from CA, cut it up and moved it out of the trail. JT recommends that if large trees are to be cut during trail maintenance that the landowner be notified and given the option of leaving saw logs intact rather than cutting into short lengths.
 - c. NTC is currently planning to only maintain the loop trail within the 107ac parcel. We will not try to incorporate other previous trail segments in the rabbitat nor try to work with the abutter, Kelley, in Lee to re-open any segments of the original trail that crossed into his property. These other trail segments would require lengthy wetland crossings.
9. Updates on other property
 - a. Al Vachon, neighbor and unofficial overseer of the General Bartlett Forest on McCrillis/Rt 152/South Summer St., might be invited to attend an NTC meeting to talk about trails on this property. CA noted that there are some rare plants that should be taken into consideration in routing a trail there; she also suggested that NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) should be requested to provide a natural history review of any property where trails are being considered, as was done for the FMPs of the M-D-T properties. Note that specific locations of rare plants should be kept confidential from the public. NH has no legal protections for rare plants, and many populations have been extirpated or severely diminished by collectors.
10. Other – The Forest Society has redone the map for Mulligan Forest and will hold a public walk on 8/1.
11. Adjourn - The meeting was **adjourned at 8:20pm.**