

**Nottingham Conservation Commission
Trails Committee Workshop Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2019 – 6:30 PM
Nottingham Town Office, Conference Room #2**

1. Welcome and Announcements

- Attendance: KC, JB, SD, LG, CA, DK and GUEST: Brieghan Gardner
- Nottingham Earth Fest - September 21, 2019 (10am-3pm)
 - NCC and NTC share a tent (set up by 9am)
 - Print out more copies of the maps and locate the poster board from last year. Kennard, North River Trail, Mulligan

2. Project Updates

- **Marsh Woods**
 - NH RTP grant was submitted on time! Response expected this fall and work can begin in fall 2020
 - CA met with Mark West on 9/5/19 regarding additional permits required. A Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act permit is **not** required for this project - neither Shoreland Permit nor Shoreland Permit by Notification. In the process of applying for the Recreational Trails Program grant, we realized that the North River, as a tributary to the Wild and Scenic Lamprey River, had received additional protections under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) and is subject to the Shorelands Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) regulations. The additional protections apply to the section that is 4th order or greater, which includes everything downstream from 393 Stage Rd on Rt 152 and covers all the Marsh Woods river shoreland. Ryan Duquette at DES said we would likely need either a Shorelands Permit or Shorelands Permit by Notification. While we were meeting, Mark called Darlene Forst, Shoreland Section Supervisor at DES, and

confirmed that the scope of our project (low impact walking trail < 6' wide) did not require either of these permits.

- Acceptable activities without needing a permit: cut limbs to improve the view, remove shrubs and stumps, and cut some moderate sized trees. We can use onsite materials to grade the trail to level it (e.g., for the Tasker Connector). Stepping-stones and bog bridges are equivalent minimal-impact construction.
- Setbacks and Trail Siting: The 25' setback from rivers and 75' from vernal pools found in the Moreno Forest Management Plans are only recommendations. There are no regulations on setbacks for trails, and we can use lesser setbacks as the site requires. Student Conservation Association NH AmeriCorps (SCA) has the final say on the trail route and construction, even if it doesn't agree with the plan submitted with the Trails Notification form. **Note that there is a timing conflict between SCA availability (May – Oct) and F&G recommendation for trail maintenance dates (Nov – Apr).**

- **CA emailed the NHDES Heritage Bureau for clarification**

- Trails Notifications form and maps: The instructions say to include a 24,000:1 topo map. Mark suggests we should also include an aerial map with leaf-off imaging and closer scale to provide more detail of the project site. Attach a "photo log" with photos of each of the 5 crossing sites from each direction and a description of the type of construction. Use thick, bright lines for trails. A revised map is needed for Merriam-Daggett DES permit. For Tasker, the previously created map (one crossing) can be used.
- Wait until end of summer to contact Josh again about the final wildlife protection plan. We need his recommendation to submit the Trails Notification for DES and the CUAs for NRCS. Mark can assist with this contact if necessary. DES approval is needed for the CUA application. Deadline for permit completion is 3/12/2020, when the 1-year limit for NHB datacheck expires.

- Other recommendations: Move the picture post to the overlook to draw visitors in that direction, away from the sand pit, and protect sensitive wildlife.
- **Town Office Land** - Deed research into Class VI status is needed to determine if trail can continue through to McCrillis Rd.
- **Kennard** - small kiosk or other trail signage is desirable. CA did easement monitoring with BearPaw volunteer - put up trail medallions every 300 ft (slightly sparse - some additional markings needed).
 - East trail needs to be finalized this fall!

3. Other

- Marston Property was mowed - milkweed/monarch caterpillar habitat was decimated. Who is the point of contact for mowing the property? Was mowing authorized by the Martston committee or by Chris Sterndale? Suggest a mowing schedule that is mindful of sensitive species.

4. Action Item Recap

- **Marsh Woods Next Steps:**
 - Contact Josh again about the final wildlife protection plan (CA).
 - Create a photo log of crossings sites (CA).
 - A revised map is needed for Merriam-Daggett DES permit (CA).
- Town Office Land - Deed research (JB)
- Preparation for Earth Day -
 - Send out volunteer poll (KC)
 - Check town library for the trails binder
 - Ask for printing from the library or send map printing request to Betsy Warrington at the town office.

- Kennard east trail - Schedule trail field workshop.
- Email Chris Sterndale regarding Marston mowing (SD)
- Admin basics:
 - Update e-mailing list to include Brieghan Gardner
 - Update meeting agendas on the town website
 - Last agenda posted: 11/01/2018
 - Update Meeting minutes on the town website
 - Last minutes: 5-13-2019

5. Adjourn (7:45pm)

Next meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2019 – 6:30 PM, Conf. Room #2