

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

1. Welcome and Announcements (6:30-6:35 pm)

- Present: SD, CA, BG, IB, MB, DK

- Announcements:

- Sam got a call from Romeo Danais, who has put in an offer to the town for the USA Springs property. Wants to locate a solar farm there and use the framework USA Springs put up for a storage facility. Also spoke with John Terninko about possibly putting in a nature trail on the Easterly portion of the property (wetland). Sam doesn't think we or the CC will be able to do anything there unless it's put in an easement (can't spend funds on private property).

- Deb has acquired a GPS machine (Garmin ETrex 20X) and been reimbursed for it. Still experimenting with it and figuring out how to use it.

- Celia suggests maybe meeting at some point with Shawn McLean, new Public Works Director, to ask if they might be willing to make an extra pass and plow some of the trailhead parking lots enough to make space for a car.

- Celia learned that there is a new set of guidelines for wetlands permitting that will go into effect December 15th and will affect our plans for Marsh Woods.

- Celia mentioned the possibility of hiring Mark West to work through the permitting process for Marsh Woods for us. Sam to look into whether CC funds could be used for that purpose.

2. Reviewed and Approved Minutes (6:55-7:35 pm) - 9/5, 10/3, (held off on 11/7)

- Sam moved to accept 9/5/19 minutes as revised. Deb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Sam moved to accept 10/5/19 minutes as corrected. Deb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Decided to hold off on 11/7/19 minutes until the next meeting to allow us to get to other business. (It's 7:35 now.)

3. Project Updates (7:35 pm- 7:45 pm)

- Marsh Woods next steps
 - Didn't get the grant for Marsh Woods. Marston property did get the grant.
 - Celia said we were encouraged to apply again next year. Deb suggested that if our plans are clearer/more finalized at that point that might help us.
 - Celia: North Loop from mill along river and back down into West pasture could use some trimming of branches and cleanup of fallen trees. Deb has electric chainsaw that would help with some of the lighter work. Ian has a small gas chainsaw.
 - If we don't have answers about the turtle plan re. Tasker we could focus on Merriam/Daggett for now and see what progress we can make. They are two separate easements that

need to be dealt with separately anyway. Celia doesn't know if we can open it to the public without permits in place, though.

- 2020 project priorities—Celia suggests that we hold off on this for tonight and jump ahead to encumbrance.

4. Action Items

- Spend/encumber remaining funds before year end
 - Celia: SM sent out some information about encumbering funds to spend in 2020. SM sent a letter to Chris Sterndale saying that her husband Bob had volunteered to build the kiosk at Kennard. She suggests taking \$300 out of the mapping line and \$300 out of trail development from CC and encumbering those funds to use for kiosk construction and printed maps of Kennard. Deborah Goard at SE Land Trust informed us that their kiosks are built by volunteers and materials run around \$300. Also provided some info about who they use for printing of maps and materials displayed on kiosks and cost associated with that—around \$1,000 for printing and shipping. Should cost less for us since their kiosks are larger.
 - Deb: would be nice at some point in the future to create and distribute a full-town map showing where all of the public trails in Nottingham are located (maybe with maps of different individual trails on reverse). Celia mentioned the possibility of an online interactive version.
 - Sam moved to recommend to Nottingham CC that they seek to encumber \$300 out of the mapping line item and \$300 out of trail development line item from 2019 budget for the construction of a kiosk, printing of maps, etc. for the Kennard Forest. Celia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Tasker brush cutting

- Celia discovered that beavers at Tasker have been doing a lot of their own brush cutting and are not cleaning up after themselves. Also saw large vehicle tracks and evidence of machine cutting. Maybe done in conjunction with mowing at landfill? We're not supposed to be using mechanized equipment for mowing/cutting at all on that property because it's an NRCS easement, but it's convenient to have it done. SD will contact Shawn McLean and try to find out more.

- Google Drive—some of us are more comfortable with working on it than others. Discussed maybe in Jan. or Feb. doing a workshop to help everyone learn to use it.

- Meeting times—Celia: Should we consider regularly extending our meetings to 8:00 or holding some additional workshops to catch up?
Sam: We should plan on meeting until 8:00 for at least our next couple of meetings to catch up.

5. Adjourn (8:15 pm) Celia moved to adjourn, Deb seconded, carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 2, 2020 – 6:30 PM, Conf. Room #2