

**Nottingham Conservation Commission  
Trails Committee Workshop Minutes  
Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 6:30 PM  
Nottingham Town Office, Conference Room #2**

**1. Welcome and Announcements**

- Attendance: KD, SD, CA, LG, SM
- Bear Paw Breakfast in the Barn is on May 2, 2020; Bear Paw Regional Greenways is March 14, 2020 from 2-4pm
- Warrant Article regarding Land Use Change Taxes is #13 instead of 17.

**2. Review and Approve Minutes of 2/6/2020**

- SD motioned to accept the minutes with revisions. SM seconded. Passed unanimously.

**3. Action Item Updates**

- Tasker Brush cutting- SD will provide Chris Sterndale with a copy of the easement that indicates only hand tools can be used for trail maintenance. Any changes to this would have to be approved by F&G. KD offered to set up a meeting with Shawn McLean, Director of Public Works, and Chris Sterndale to talk about maintenance on the Tasker land and possibly maintaining parking areas for trails in town.
- Kennard Forest workday in February - there weren't too many down limbs to clean up. We saw some recent footprints so the trail is being used. Next for Kennard is to have Bear Paw create a stewardship plan and then we may need to get a trails permit. SM asked about work on a kiosk at Kennard but it's too premature.

**4. Project Updates**

- Marsh Woods - CA submitted a Statutory Permit Notification to DES this week and it's been approved online. We now have 2 years to get the trail work complete before this expires. CA is now working on

the Compatible Use Authorization. We don't need to get the NHB updated (expires 3/18/20) before submitting the CUA. Once the CUA is done we can begin work on the trail.

- Town Office Trail - The old road on the trail is no longer a Class VI road and the land reverted back to the adjoining land owners. David Noyes owns a significant amount of land along the trail. CA will try to get in contact with him about possibly putting some of his land into conservation and/or giving permission to use the trail for recreation purposes.

## 5. Other

- If we are going to use trails that go on private land (like the town office trail) then we should have some written documentation from the land owners that we have their permission to use the land for recreational purposes. There are several examples of letters online for hunting and snowmobile purposes and the RTP landowner permission form. We would have to create a letter that specifically meets our needs. We should give land owners choices as to what they will and won't allow and put up signage noting that. KD offered to work with Kelly Dallaire on creating a letter for our purposes. CA noted that this is also a trail that could potentially be ADA compliant.
- Grant Opportunities - Applied for RTP grants for Marston and Marsh Woods last year. Marsh Woods didn't get a grant and Marston had to be declined due to the cost of required archaeological work (through DHR). SM has a friend, Victoria Bunker, who does archaeological work who could be consulted for another rate. DHR also has a list of archaeologists that are supposedly less expensive. The RTP grant is open this year from April 20, 2020 to June 19, 2020. Mandatory workshops will be in May 2020. We will look into re-submitting an application for Marsh Woods. KD may resubmit for Marston if they can get a less expensive rate for the archaeological work.
- Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant - KD informed the group that they made it through the first round of this process. If they get the grant it would cover the costs of the ballfields, hopefully the pavilion and maybe trail work. Also, the archaeological study that

would need to be done can be used as matching funds with the LWCF.

- The National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program; Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC); and Fields Pond Foundation have grants we may be eligible for. LG will look into the NPS grant and CA will look at the FPF grant to see which one might be better. SM thinks we should also apply for the RTP grant again.
- Update on Marston-LWCF grant as noted above. Ballfields at Marston should be usable by 2021. They can't get the grass to grow on the fields and there isn't enough money to put in irrigation. However, if they get the LWCF grant that would cover the cost for irrigation. SM questioned whether the site has been recently tested and is safe for children to be playing on. When the town took over the land it was tested and the ground was found to be contaminated (Brownsfield). KD will talk to Chris Sterndale about it.
- Trails Fitness Program ideas - KD wanted to know if the book of trail maps is current and able to be shared with the public. It was agreed to leave the town office trail out for now until we get landowner permissions. KD wants to start an incentive program to get people outside and doing things around town, including using the hiking trails. She is also looking into partnering with Pawtuckaway. They have recreation patches to give as prizes. The maps are currently on the trail committee page on the town website so can be linked to the recreation dept page. CA suggested we get a professional to do the trail maps so they're clearer and more consistent. SM suggested having medallions posted on the scenic roads so people know about them as well.
- KD is partnering with the Nottingham Youth Association to do a grounds/fields clean-up day on April 18, 2020. She would like this to include clean-up on the exercise trail behind the community building. The plastic bag recycling program was very successful and they got a bench from Trex. The Recreation Dept is going to present the bench after clean-up day. Not sure where they'll put it yet. KD would like to put up a progress chart at the recycling center to show how many bags they've collected and how close they are to reaching their new

goals. KD also shared that they now have a compost bin at the community center and would like to find ways to encourage more recycling and using reusable bottles, etc.

- Earthfest will be September 12, 2020!
- 300th Celebration - the Recreation Dept and the Fire Dept are partnering to have a bonfire on New Year's weekend of 2022. KD would also like to host a "First Day Hike" on January 1, 2022 at Marston, so she is hopeful that at least one of the trails on the property will be done by then.

6. Adjourn (8:03pm)

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

Submitted by LG