

**Lee Trails Committee Minutes
January 24, 2024 @ 6 PM**

Members Present: Deb Sugerman (Liaison/Chair), Martin Thornton (Secretary), Dennis Regan, Chris Regan, Leslie Chinburg, Paul McComiskey, Greg Ewing, Naomi Alldredge

Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2023: Dennis Regan moved to accept the minutes. Naomi Alldredge seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved. It is noted that there was no December meeting.

Reports:

Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting: Deb Sugerman reported:

- The QR code draft write ups are completed. They will be sent out to the CC and the TC one at a time. They have two weeks to comment on any further edits. Then will send the Draft to Amanda for final formatting. There are 3 for the TF and 3 for MJMF.

New Business

Trails Condition

- MJMF trails are now closed completely for the logging and habitat restoration project. No projection on when they will open again. When they are ready, we will need to access and clean up any slash left.
- LRP Ridge Trail; the log across the trail was cleared by Martin Thornton and Chris Regan.
- There is a tree down in the TF near the Transfer Station Parking lot on the left side yellow trail.
- A cost summary of the Puncheons for the TF was submitted by Martin Thornton and added to the Bridge summary worksheet. This is based on a survey Chris Regan, Dennis Regan, and Martin Thornton completed in November.

Writing

- The QR code trail highlights have been completed. See the notes under the CC Report.
- The Structure Approval Guide was completed by Martin Thornton and sent out for review. Deb Sugerman will forward to the CC for comments. He is working on the Design and Maintenance Guide.

New Trails

A discussion was taken on new areas that may be explored for new trails and/or the improvement of existing trails. From the last meeting TC Members were assigned different areas to investigate along with a CC representative. Below is a summary of the points discussed for each area.

ELLIS OYSTER RIVER TRAIL	
POSITIVES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beautiful area ● Relatively small area ● Abuts the Oyster River ● Approximately 1/2 mile trail ● Loop trail ● Would be easy to make a trail there ● Nice place for a bench 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No bridge across the gully ● Small pulloff for cars 0.2 m from trailhead ● No parking on trail side ● A new trail would have to be developed ● Need to check water level at different seasons ● Garbage in area

THOMPSON MILL RD	
POSITIVES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beautiful area ● Abuts the Little River ● Approximately .5 - 1 mile trail ● Could be a loop trail ● Would be fairly easy to make a trail there ● Historic mill site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mill is hazardous ● Parking is very limited ● No bridge across the gully ● Access to Cartland Rd ● Debris in river ● Scientific area? ● Need to check boundary lines of area

GARRITY RESERVE	
POSITIVES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parking along cemetery to access S gate on Garrity Rd ● Habitat area for preservation ● Beautiful area ● Could link to MJMF ● Some trails already completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Link is on private property ● Boundaries need to be better defined ● Many rogue trails have been made ● Old structure is hazardous ● Trail goes by steep section into gravel pit - hazardous ● Rerouting of trails necessary

DURGIN PRESERVE	
POSITIVES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lots of parking ● Basic trail is already there ● We could add a section along Rita Lane that accesses the Wheelwright Pond Trail so people don't have to walk on the road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It's a snowmobile trail ● Shared use during the winter ● Wet area ● Access from Northside Rd

JAMES FARM	
POSITIVES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nice area for residents ● Trail already there ● Fire pond ● 15 acres ● Four access points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old bridge will need to be replaced ● Lots of wet areas ● Limited parking ● Who has access? ● Needs lots of trail maintenance

NEXT STEPS:

- The TC members should walk each area as a group
 - We will set up a poll to see when the best time(s) are for the group

- Check on what to do about DES - should we have someone come out and look at bridge areas to tell us if we need a permit, or can we talk to them on the phone?

Next meeting will be February 28, 2024 at 6 PM at the Town Offices.

Move to adjourn by Deb Sugerman, second by Dennis Regan, Approved.

Minutes submitted by: Martin Thornton

Acronyms:

CC:	Conservation Commission
DP:	Durgin Preserve, Alfred C. Durgin Preserve
LTF:	Lee Town Forest
LRP:	Little River Park
MJMF:	Maud Jones Memorial Forest
SRPC	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
TC	Trail Committee