

Lee Trails Committee Minutes February 28, 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 January 24, 2024: Dennis Regan moved to accept the minutes. Chris Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Reports:

Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting: Deb Sugerman reported:

- The CC is interested in having the Trails Committee members attend their meetings
- Budget for upcoming projects this year
 - Martin to send out the current quote for the TF Puncheons to the group.
 - Two bridges are left to be replaced in the TF
 - Kiosk for trails on the new areas to be considered. That would be next winter's project to build up the subassemblies.
- Upcoming events from Catherine
 - Thursday, Feb. 29, Lee Library, 2:00-3:00: Leap Day Walk. This will be a family walk in the Town Forest. Meet at the library, celebrate Leap Day with a pre-spring woods walk, then return to the Library for cookies and cocoa.
 - Maud Jones Geology Walk: A preliminary walk with Wally Bothner and Don Quigley will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 28 for the CC.
 - Woodcock Walk: Lee has several excellent Town-Owned locations where woodcock perform their sky dance. As the land begins to warm and the woodcocks return, we will scout out possible locations (TF, Old Mill Reserve, LRP, Lee 5 Corners, and Joe Ford are all prime woodcock locations). When this walk occurs, is dependent upon when the woodcocks return.
 - Frog Walks: Depends on when the wood frogs and spotted salamanders emerge. Thawed ground, night time temps of at least 40° and some good, rainy nights are what trigger early spring amphibian migrations. The earliest they have emerged is March 1, but Frog walks could be as late as mid-April. When this walk occurs, is dependent upon when the conditions start to look promising.
 - All info will be updated on Facebook and the E-crier.
- Upcoming events from Mimi Winder
 - EAB workshop May 1 or 2
 - Tree ID workshop, date to be announced

Right of Way (RoW) from Cartland Rd into the Little River Park: The access road has been posted as Private Property, No Trespassing. The land owner has the right and the Town does not intend to pursue a use agreement. A future project would be to look for a way to tie in the other trails in LRP to intersect the RoW that is within the town land.

MJMF Habitat Restoration: Don Quigley and Anne Tappan will be doing a write up on the recent tree removal operation and sponsor a tour. In the meantime, Martin Thornton will post Dawn's e-crier write up at the Kiosk.

New Trails

- Top three priorities: James Farm (JF), Durgin Preserve (DP), Garrity Reserve (GP)
 - Work on next steps,
 - Review easement requirements and plot plan
 - Organize flagging so CC can walk the trails,
 - Make a list of projects and needed materials,
 - Develop a plan and timeline for our next meeting

- Next priorities: Ellis Oyster River (EOR) and Thompson Mill (TM)
 - Work on next steps,
 - Meet with Deb Sugerman for resources,
 - Come up with a plan for next meeting
 - For Ellis Oyster River (EOR) we will concentrate on the area across from the water gauge station.

Membership renewal: those will be provided to the Selectboard after the town meeting / voting is completed. Kent will not be renewing his membership but looks forward to helping on work days. Greg and Naomi will work out who will take over his membership position.

New Business

Nottingham Trails Committee: Deb Sugerman mentioned they would like to do a regional cross trail exploration with area towns. The idea is to have each town's trail committee members (along with the general public) walk the other town's trails and share ideas. Will advise as this develops.

Work Day Plans for Spring: Come up with a list of projects for your areas to clean up the trails and make improvements. Will discuss dates at the next meeting.

Ideas:

- Renew blazes, and cover up/remove old blazes
- Trim back brush
- Clear downed branches
- LRP bridge maintenance
- TF Puncheons and Bridges
- Install QR codes, updates to Kiosk display

Writing Projects

- MJMF is completed for the QR codes
- Lee Bog is completed, thanks to Catherine Fisher for her input
- Vernal Pool is with Catherine Fisher for review
- Deb Sugerman saw an item on the internet that discussed people will read something on a kiosk for 35 to 45 seconds. Writings should be brief enough for that time period.
- Dennis Regan reported that there may be interest at UNH to scan the cemetery behind the library.

No Hunting signs: A learning experience for the future. The signs that were put up with the nails in four corners held up through the winter. The signs hung with only two nails in the center shattered in the cold and wind. In the future we should do the four corners. They would be mounted either onto the trees, or onto a backing board attached to the smaller trees or posts.

Next meeting will be March 27, 2024 at 6 PM at the Town Offices.

Move to adjourn by Chris Regan, second by Dennis Regan, Approved.

Minutes submitted by: Martin Thornton

Acronyms:

CC:	Conservation Commission
DP:	Durgin Preserve, Alfred C. Durgin Preserve
EAB	Emerald Ash Borer
EOR	Ellis Oyster River
GP	Garrity Reserve
ID	Identification
JF	James Farm
LTF:	Lee Town Forest

LRP:	Little River Park
MJMF:	Maud Jones Memorial Forest
SRPC	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
TC	Trail Committee
TM	Thompson Mill