

Loudon Trails Subcommittee
Monday, February 26, 2024 – 4 PM
Charlie's Barn, 29 South Village Road, Loudon, NH 03307

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Sandy Blanchard	Deb Eastman-Proulx
Martha Butterfield	Lynda Caine
John Mesick	Nancy Huckins
Dave Emerson	Laura Vincent
Craig Mabie	Dean Murray
Stephen Smith	

Central NH Regional Planning Commission Staff: N/A

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Meeting convened at 4:00 PM
- Committee welcomes Dean Murray

2. Review 1/22/24 Meeting Minutes

- DRAFT minutes had been emailed to members present
- A couple of suggestions were proposed; the final minutes will reflect those suggestions
- The minutes were then voted on and accepted

3. N'Dakinna

- New Marsh Trail has been rough cut and cleared
 - Needs final trimming
 - Needs blazing
 - Needs to be GPS'd for map
 - New maps will need to be made
 - All maps will need to be replaced
- New Crest Trail has been flagged
 - Needs to be walked more before becoming final

4. Kirby Tract

- John suggested, by using a floor jack, lifting up one end of the bridge a couple of inches and insert concrete blocks to make it higher
- Re 2nd bridge to be built:
 - Half of the materials have been bought
 - John has started cutting them
 - Discussion re: bridge location
 - John will reach out to the home owner of the property next to where the bridge may be located
 - Look into excess granite curbing that could be donated and used for steps
- A plan exists for a small bridge to be built over a ditch – will connect Blue and Purple Trails
- Bench(s) placement to be decided later

5. Bachelder

- White Trail reroute needs to be reblazed
- Bridge over Bumfagon Brook needs to be repaired
- Orange Trail may need bog bridging
- No final report from surveyor on abutting property
- Build bog bridging next to 3 slippery and falling apart snowmobile bridges on Kenney Road Connector
- Sandy to talk with Harry about using his land for a parking lot further down Kenney Road, closer to the woods part of the trail
- Proposed new trail has been flagged
 - Begins off Blue Trail
 - Is approximately a 1 ½ mile loop
 - Group walk to be scheduled

6. Epp's Mill

- Second set of steps need to be built from the bridge

7. Lovejoy

- Sign/Arrow on Rangeway Trail to promote more use – Leave as is
- Reroute White Trail that crosses a stone wall – work to start on this once the snow is gone and the ground is soft; Martha will let us know when it's time
- Martha's 2 new trails have been walked and approved
 - Need final trimming
 - Need blazing
 - Already have GPS tracks for map update

8. Nex Trex

- Program has changed: now need to collect 1,000 lbs of plastic for a bench
 - One bench allowed per year
 - Eligible for next bench in July

9. Rec Trail

- John installed 2 new backboards/maps
- Steve cut/cleared some trees
- A section of the trail is under water; look at this in the summer to see if the trail needs to be rerouted

10. Financial – John Mesick

- \$512.02 has been spent on the Kirby bridge so far; about \$500 more will be needed for this project
- There will be approximately \$300 left in COVID funds to be used by June 30. Purchasing suggestions:
 - Buy good quality blazing paint
 - Buy planks for the 3 trail areas next to the snowmobile bridges on Kenney Road Connector

11. Volunteer Hours (Martha)

- Bachelder Trails – 452
- Epps Mills Trails – 236
- Kirby Tract – 721
- Lovejoy Trails – 645
- Recreation Trail – 36
- N'Dakinna – 673

12. Regular Trail Visit Checklist

- Reporting for 2023/2024 Q4 (Dec-Feb) – there were 2 left
 - Steve walked the Rec Trail in February
 - Bachelder – Blue Loop still needs to be checked – Steve volunteered to do this

13. Financial Record Keeping (Same as #10 above – to be taken off)

14. Other Business

- Dave Emerson is working with a group in Canterbury that will be building a bridge on the Kimball Pond Trail
 - John sent Dave possible bridge designs
 - Bridge will need to have a hand rail
 - There are 2 private land owners involved with this property – will need their permission
 - Canterbury group to get things in order
 - Members of our group have volunteered to assist in the building of the bridge, as our schedules/time allow
 - Dave to keep us informed of their pre-build progress
- Dean Murray, who has worked on the Boisvert-Normand Nature Conservancy trails, gave us an overview of the project
 - The property, on Currier Road, consists of close to 70 acres
 - Currently has a few miles of trails – open to the public
 - Is a working tree farm
 - One side of the road is now being selectively logged
 - More trails to be built after it's logged
 - New trails will connect to existing trails on the other side of the road
 - Pollinator Garden to be planted
 - Intent is for school groups to come use the trails to learn, ID trees, etc.

- There is an old growth forest down by the river
 - Not yet GPS'd
 - Future possibility of connecting to other local trails
- Mapping for future trails
 - Vincent has a draft map, but wants to get a better understanding of how trails are created and where they are located
 - Layers we think would be helpful are:
 - Property lines
 - Snowmobile trails
 - Conservation easements
 - Town owned land
 - Class VI roads
 - State owned land
 - Historical information that would be meaningful

15. **Next Meeting Date:** March 25, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM