

Loudon Trails Subcommittee
Monday, January 22, 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
Bob Lyon	Kevin Healey
Craig Mabie	Laura Vincent

Central NH Regional Planning Commission Staff: Vincent Pagano

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Meeting convened at 4:00 PM

2. Review 11/27/23 Meeting Minutes

- DRAFT minutes had been emailed to members present
- There were no additions/corrections to the proposed Minutes
- Minutes were voted on and accepted

3. N'Dakinna

- There are no issues to report from all the recent storms and rain
- Re: Proposed addition of Blue Marsh Trail
 - John has flagged it
 - Steve and John walked it and identified a place for a bench; a small viewing area would need to be cleared
 - Need more people to walk it
- Re: Proposed addition of Crest Trail
 - John partially flagged it
 - The middle section, that goes over the high point of the property has some interesting things to see; uncertain where best to put the trail
 - Need more people to walk it
- Martha and John and anyone else available will walk these areas on 1/23/24

4. Kirby Tract

- Bridges held up nicely but water was within an inch of the main bridge
 - Re: Main Bridge
 - Discussion re jacking up the foundation of the bridge to raise it an inch or two
 - Water washed some of the crushed rock out of the foundation
 - To repair: Add bigger rock/rip rap
 - Bridge is not anchored down
- Large bridge to be built over ditch
 - This is time sensitive as COVID 19 funds need to be used by June 30
- Small bridge over ditch – will connect the Blue and Purple Trails
 - Use boards that are there
 - Needs to be cabled so it won't wash away
- Bench replacement/location to be decided on later

5. Bachelder

- On the most recent rerouted section of the White Trail, the blazes are too far apart and some have faded. Last Fall John flagged the area making the trail easier to follow until it can be reblazed.
- A tree fell on an end section of the bridge over Bumfagon Brook. There is some damage to boards that will need to be replaced. In the meantime, the bridge is fine to walk on.
- Martha and Craig flagged a proposed section of new trail. It is located off the Blue Trail, after passing over the bridge.
 - It is a scenic area where you can see more of Bumfagon Brook
 - Trail would be approximately a 1 ½ mile loop
 - Group walk to be scheduled
- On the Orange Trail, there are 3 water crossings. One of them may need some bog bridging.

- There are 3 snowmobile bridges on the Kenney Road Connector Trail that are in need of repair or replacement. One of them is really bad and the others are slippery when wet. It would be helpful to hikers to have another way around them. It was suggested that we add bog bridging to one side of the bridge.
- Property on the right of the White Trail has been surveyed. Julie has talked with the surveyor. No final report has been issued.
 - Appears from the initial survey results, that the tax maps are inaccurate, the size and shapes of some properties are also inaccurate, and there is a discrepancy with Harry's land in relation to the trail. We will await the final report.
- Discussion about moving the Kenney Road Kiosk and Trailhead further down Kenney Road, possibly on other property Harry owns. Sandy will contact Harry re availability.

6. Epp's Mill

- Steps are needed on the far side of the bridge. 2 granite pieces are there; Sandy has another one at her house
 - To be built when the ground is not frozen

7. Lovejoy

- Several members recently walked areas for possibly 2 new trails and checked out a couple of small reroute areas
 - Martha has discovered a couple of areas for new trails that will not require a lot of work, are nice, have some interesting features, and are not too close to any existing trails
 - Those on the walk agreed with her assessment
 - Rather than do a reroute of the White Trail up to the stone wall, there will be another path people can follow or not
 - As to a short section on the White Trail that crosses a stone wall, it was recommended to redo the trail and keep it on the same side of the stone wall
- Discussion about Arrows on the Range Way
 - Not much foot traffic down the Range Way. Probably because there's a white arrow pointing right.
 - Do we want to add a yellow arrow lettered RANGE WAY pointing left for people to walk down the range way?
 - It is a down and back walk. We don't want to encourage foot traffic on private property. Decided to leave as is.

8. Nex Trex

- Lots of plastic continues to be collected
 - Lynda has been regularly collecting from the drop off bins located at the Town Office Building and the Library
 - We want to Thank the community for their continued participation
 - You are doing a Great job complying with the plastic requirements
 - Keep up the good work
- We have received the 3rd bench. Location to be determined.
- Discussion re: working with the Boy Scouts to be able to acquire more benches

9. Rec Trail

- The trail was GPS'd
- A trail map has been created
- John needs 2 backboards to post the maps – discussion as to where best to post them
- A large tree fell over the trail and will need to be cleaned up with a chain saw

10. All of our maps should have a standardized title block as they are revised

- To be discussed at our next meeting

11. Update Concord Regional Planning website

- QR code, that is posted at the trailheads, needs to be updated to add the N'Dakinna and Kirby Tract Trails; Vincent will follow up on this

12. Research Maps

- Vincent will work on maps of our town which will consist of various layers
 - This will aid in helping us brainstorm areas for new trails, Class VI roads, historical areas, properties in easement, and the potential for connecting trails
 - Snow Shakers have a map of snowmobile trails that may be helpful and be added as a layer

13. Financial – John Mesick

- No monies have been spent thus far in 2024

14. Volunteer Hours (Martha)

- Bachelder Trails – 452
- Epps Mills Trails – 236
- Kirby Tract – 702
- Lovejoy Trails – 641
- Recreation Trail – 33
- N'Dakinna – 631

15. Regular Trail Visit Checklist

- Reporting for 2023/2024 Q4 (Dec-Feb)
 - Many trails have been walked; chart updated
 - Only 2 left for this reporting period: Bachelder – Blue Loop and Rec Trail

16. Financial Record Keeping – See #13 above

17. Other Business

- Craig mentioned that later this year, Sanborn Mills Farm will be opening to the public on certain days for self-guided tours around the farm. The Farm is thinking about adding a trail around the pond. Some of the property is in easement and some is not. Craig was checking to see if members of our committee would be interested in helping build the trail. Members showed interest, however, they want to walk it and discuss numerous matters before committing.
- Canterbury is thinking of forming a trails group. There is a lot of around 400 acres that may be available for trails.
- Sandy suggested having a separate list, with each trails needs, to work with going forward.
- Maxfield Monument property discussed:
 - Some of the property is in Loudon and some is in Canterbury
 - State is scheduled this year to survey their property that is adjacent to the Town of Loudon property
 - Start of trail from Old Shaker Road is a snowmobile trail. It is very wet and muddy. Maybe a hiking trail could be developed adjacent on higher, drier ground.
 - Parking: Previously talked with Town of Loudon Road Agent who would add a few parking spots along Old Shaker Road
 - Snowmobile bridges need to be rebuilt. Would we want to work with them to do this?
- Town of Loudon has a 55 acre parcel of land off Lower Ridge Road entitled Taylor-Haynes:
 - There are trails in there, but are probably overgrown
 - 3 Season parking would be across the road, however, winter parking would not be available as that area is part of the snowmobile trail.

18. Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM