



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

April 11, 2016

7:00 p.m. Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Sharon Hickey, Lynne Wenz, Peter Mikolajczuk, Cindy Glenn, Don Laliberte, Debra Huffman

Guests: Richard Maloon, Matt Caron, Tim Adams

Call to order: Chairman Newt Coryell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Volunteers: Debra Huffman reported that marking the boundaries will be a big task and that help from additional volunteers would be appreciated. Richard Maloon and Tim Adams volunteered to help, in addition to committee members Don Laliberte, Roland Roberge, Sharon Hickey, Cindy Glenn and Lynne Wenz. Richard provided a copy of the deed. Don will try to get boundary coordinates on a map. Deb will get a metal detector. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 23rd.

Debra also reported that Amanda Yonkin is resigning from the committee due to work commitments.

Scout Project at the Spalding Foundation: Peter Mikolajczuk reported that he has spoken with the scout (Blake) and is waiting for Blake to get the ball rolling. Newt Coryell gave Peter a card from Home Depot and said that they can help with materials for the project.

Parking Lot Expansion: Cindy Glenn reported that the MCC has sent out the RFP, which is due back by the end of April. They hope to have the work done by the end of June.

Parks and Recreation Hike: Matt Casparius would like to set up a family hike on one of the MCC properties in late summer. P&R will promote it. Tim Adams volunteered to lead a hike of HHNP. Lynne mentioned that Audubon has a hike every spring. Richard Maloon will write up a description of the Audubon hike and give it to Matt Casparius to promote.

Tree Cutting at Wasserman Heights: A homeowner has been cutting trees within the town's easement in Wasserman Heights. Several committee members have visited the location and reported that the trail has been seriously impacted. The town has issued a Cease and Desist order to the homeowner and the Town Manager is handling the situation. The MCC will figure out

how to best mitigate the damage. Matt Caron reported that the homeowner is now riding four-wheelers through the damaged area.

Don Laliberte reported that there is tree cutting near the HHNP boundary for a house lot across from Danforth. He and Debra visited and inspected the boundary. Some trees were questionable, but the cutting was mostly on the landowner's property. They spoke with the landscapers, who assured them that there would be no more cutting and the trees that landed on HHNP property would be chipped and removed.

Newt stated that in Hollis the Conservation Commission is notified about tree cutting, and asked if this could be done in Merrimack when the cutting abuts MCC land. Cindy Glenn will follow up.

Map Problems: Town staff recently had the HHNP brochure reprinted, but they didn't have the latest version of the map. A procedure should be put in place to prevent this in the future.

Matt Caron stated that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission is willing to make maps of town properties. The committee expressed concern over how trail changes would be made to those maps. The Wildcat Falls committee made maps using a Google overlay. There will be more discussion with the MCC of how to best prepare maps.

Annual Parking Lot Cleanup: Sharon Hickey volunteered to lead this project. John Lastowka pruned the blueberry bushes, but the trees around them should be trimmed so they get more sun. Roland Roberge and Newt Coryell volunteered to trim the trees.

Planter at the Parking Lot: Lynne Wenz stated that she planted sunflowers and ornamental grasses, day lilies, a bush with white flowers, and three types of milkweed.

Lynne received a letter from the NH Fish and Game Department asking the committee to plant a pollinator garden. Bumble bees and other pollinators are in decline. The committee agreed that it would be good to plant a pollinator garden, and emphasized that the planter should be pretty and weeds need to be controlled. Lynne will work with Cindy Glenn to design the planter. Sharon Hickey volunteered to help with the planting.

When the parking lot is expanded, it might be possible to tap into the water pipe that runs from HHNP to the Lastowka property, which would allow the planter to be easily watered. The committee would have to be sure to blow out the water each year before freeze.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 21, 2016, were approved as amended by a vote of 8-0-0.

Comments from Members: Don Laliberte asked about the beaver problem by the Bradish bridge. Cindy Glenn stated that she will advise the committee of the results of the investigation. Don also stated that the arrows on top of the signs are fading. Newt said that he has more of them, and Don volunteered to replace them. Don also noted that at Marker #13 a tree came down and he took care of it. He also asked about the criteria for tree cutting under the power lines. Lynne stated that PSNH cut the tree that had the 'No ATVs' sign on it. Newt stated that he will check into it and replace the sign.

Peter Mikolajczuk asked about the asphalt that needs to be removed from the trail, and Newt stated that it has already been removed. Peter also asked about the protocol for extending a trail. He will flag some suggested trail modifications.

Cindy Glenn stated that there is one alternate position open on the committee since Angela Martin resigned. Debra stated that with Amanda's resignation there will also be a full time opening.

Newt Coryell stated that the trail between posts 11 and 12 is wet. Matt Caron stated that he will put a bridge over it.

Comments from Guests: Matt Caron stated that the trail from post 14 to 15 should be closed due to erosion. He has already flagged a new route. Peter will flag an additional trail expansion in that area. Peter will advise the committee when he's done and the committee will walk the suggested route.

There was general discussion about the Watanic Bowmen shoots. Roland will post the dates of shoots in the kiosks. The Bowmen should post signs at the Quarry Trail. Matt Caron is concerned about the Bowmen using a quad to set their targets in April since the trails might still be wet. Newt will call them. Newt said the Bowmen apologized for not cleaning up after the last shoot.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.