



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE (of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2022

Subcommittee Members Present:

- Andrew Duane
- Gina Rosati
- Elizabeth Petrides (remote via telephone)

Others present:

- **Mr. and Mrs. LoVerme** (representing the Michael LoVerme Memorial Fund)

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Merrimack Memorial Room.

Public Comments:

No public comments

New Business:

- Michael LoVerme Memorial Fund representatives discussed plans to place a new granite memorial bench on the North Loop Trail, facing a scenic overlook on the river.
 - There was a short discussion of cleanup around the area to remove some downed trees that interfere with the scenic view and potentially obstruct access. Pictures of the area were shown and a few candidates for cleanup were identified.
 - There was a discussion of the logistics of transport of the bench, pieces of which weigh several hundred pounds. Transport from the parking lot over the North Loop Trail is not feasible due to the narrow steep trail and bridge damage limiting its capacity. A suggestion was made that an abutter who has a house very near the proposed location (John Ponican, 5 Pinehaven Drive) might be amenable to allowing use of their property to transport. A discussion with the bench manufacturers will be held by the Foundation to discuss their options and capabilities.
 - Liz made a motion to approve the installation, Karen seconded; motion was approved 4/0/0. Gina will bring the proposal forward to the MCC for approval at the next meeting.

- A discussion of an early spring trail cleanup day was held. A date of Sunday April 24 at 10AM was chosen, with a rain-date of Saturday, May 15 also at 10AM. MLMF members and other members of the public are expected to attend.
 - Andrew will attend to repair and replace trail blazes as needed with existing stock of blazes from the original marking effort.
- A discussion was held about placement of trail cameras within the property. 2 people requested trail cameras:
 - Andrew Butler from UNH wishes to perform a wildlife study along the North Loop Trail
 - Holly Hoag is a private citizen wishing to collect wildlife photographs in various areas for personal publication.

The requests were approved with some restrictions and rules. The cameras should be marked with their owners so other cameras can be removed, the camera placements should strive to minimize capturing people visiting the park to protect privacy, and copies of the pictures should be made available to the MCC for possible use in our website and other places.

Old Business:

- DPW was contacted to remove 5 trees that were down in the area and impacting trail usage. The trees were previously marked by Andrew and Karen but have not yet been removed.
- DPW was also contacted to perform drainage remediation on the power-line connector from the Falls Loop Trail. The specific place was marked by Andrew and Karen. A drainage swale diagonally across the trail is needed along with some regrading and possible fill to smooth out previous erosion. This has not yet been done.
- A discussion of bridge repair options on the North Loop Trail footbridge was held. The consensus was that this should be done separately from the trail cleanup day.
 - ⇒ A temporary minor repair will be done by Andrew using existing scrap lumber. This will improve safety on the bridge while a more permanent repair/rebuild is investigated.
 - ⇒ The permanent repair/rebuild would address shortcomings in drainage and elevation in the original construction. This would be suitable for an Eagle Scout project; Gina offered to restart the process of finding Eagle Scout candidates looking for a project.
 - ⇒ Otherwise, funds could be allocated by the MCC to sponsor a professional rebuild by a private contractor. Gina will bring this up at the next MCC meeting. MLMF foundation members attending offered that the MLMF might consider funding the project.
- A discussion of fence or barrier to be constructed along the wetland side of the parking lot (to the left when entering). This could prevent parking there which endangers other cars pulling out of parking spaces and potentially threatens the wetlands just past the lot boundary.
 - ⇒ A consensus was reached that a fence or any other barrier will be ineffective and end up further shrinking maneuvering space. A proposal was made to get DPW to install several

new "No Parking" signs (3 or 4) on standard highway/road supports. Gina will contact DPW to inquire about doing this.

Subcommittee Comments:

There were no Subcommittee comments.

Meeting Minutes:

The January 2022 meeting minutes were read and approved without changes.

Liz moved to approve; Andrew seconded; approval was 4-0-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Liz, seconded by Karen; Motion carried: 4-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.