



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Grater Woods

(Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Wednesday April 12, 2023

Memorial Conference Room

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 6:35pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey LeCours

Gage Perry

Paul Labrie

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- The bridge between Bambi Trail and the outdoor classroom has been damaged a bit by tree fall (since removed). This will be addressed at our next trail day.
- Our next trail day will be on Saturday, June 3rd. Meetup will be at the parking lot between the middle school and the baseball field at 9am.
- Paul and Steve have noticed washout over time on the trail heading down from the Beebe Lane culdesac. We talked about ways we could address this, including possibly putting in some tiered steps.
- Parking at Beebe Lane is often chaotic and problematic. Cars have been seen double parking, parking perpendicular to the roadside, and blocking residential mailboxes. We discussed trying to educate people by posting suggested parking orientation. We also discussed a possibility of having the town address this via painting parking lines. Jeff is to try and get more information on this.
- Jeff and Amy took a walk down Grater Woods Trail to the Wapack overlook and back Overlook Trail. There are trail markers that are missing and should be replaced. Jeff is going to get these from Gage to address this. This wapack display is still water damaged and needs to be replaced. This is something we will consider for our next trail work day.
- The Ridge Trail near where the road turns up to the new house development has some water issues just after the existing bridge. Gage and Jeff observed water coming up in this area in the winter. Possibly a damaged water line? Water is not draining down the brook (which the bridge goes over) or into the overflow area so it's pooling up and creating a muddy area right after the bridge.

- The trail maps should be updated to reflect the Chapter 111 Conservation Areas changes which no longer permit *any* motor vehicles on the Grater Wood properties. Previously some vehicles were allowed on the yellow marked trails (sections of Gateway Trail and Red Maple Trail) but this is no longer the case.
- We discussed the MCC year-end review and plan to submit a subcommittee summary of our efforts from last year and goals for this current year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Trees down on various trails - The trees on the bridge between Bambi Trail and the outdoor classroom were cut and moved to the side. There is still a large tree laying parallel to the bridge but out of the way. It does hover over the brook and could probably get cleaned up more. No action on this at the time. Trees near Beebe Lane have been cut but left there.
- Signs for the entrances of Castor- The signs were installed at the entrances of Castor.
- The gate from Grater Road in Amherst has settled and was raised onto rocks so the key box could be accessed. Amy and Jeff had walked out there last month and saw the issue. The gate bolts need to be tightened.
- Decking concerns for the bridge on the far Gateway Hill side of the Salamander trails. This is still outstanding and the plan is to use reclaimed wood from Wildcat Falls. This was actually not outstanding and was completed in the fall.
- A simple bridge on the link trail between the outdoor classroom and school loop will avoid the seasonal wetness there. This is something we're going to look at as a project for our next trail day.
- Gage placed the roofing material order in at Lowes to repair the damage at the outdoor classroom. This is something we're going to look at as a project for our next trail day.

Stewardship plan appendix updates - no new updates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The February 8, 2023 meeting minutes were approved

Motion by Jeffrey LeCours

Seconded by Paul Labrie

Motion Passed

Adjournment: The April 12, 2023 meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

Motion by Jeff LeCours

Seconded by Gage Perry

Motion Passed