

WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE  
(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017 (DRAFT)

Committee Members Present:

- Karen LaBonte
- Rebecca Brenton
- Andrew Duane
- Elizabeth Petrides
- Tim Tenhave

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Memorial Conference Room.

**Public Comments:**

1. No public comments

**New Business:**

1. Opening Hours

A discussion of keeping the park open after sunset was had earlier. Wildcat Falls is covered by town law in chapter 111 of the town code that prohibits remaining open after sunset. A separate chapter (145) covers town parks such as Wasserman, Twin Bridges, and Watson.

2. Picnic Table

It was previously decided to place a picnic table near the retention pond just inside the park entrance. Karen will discuss placement with the DPW, to make sure that access is not impeded for town maintenance of the pond and surrounding structures.

**Old Business:**

3. Bird watching event

Rebecca drafted an article for the Merrimack Journal to advertise a bird watching event at the park, tentatively scheduled for May 20. The draft was reviewed by the committee members and approved with a few small suggestions.

A schedule of other events being held at other town properties was also presented, and included a geocaching event to be held either at Wildcat Falls or the public library, sponsored by Liz. Andrew volunteered to help with the presentation and possible siting of a geocache within the park.

4. Park signage

I sample "Tick Alert" sign was presented by Karen. It is produced by (I didn't get the name) who would allow it to be used free of charge elsewhere. One is to be posted at the kiosk in the park.

5. NRPC maps

Tim discussed the mapping work by the Nashua Regional Planning Council and showed sample maps produced for several properties in Merrimack including Wildcat Falls. All maps are to be a standard format, and the sample Wildcat Falls map looks good. A discussion was held of what other information to put in spare space on the back of the map. It was decided to add more descriptions of the trails.

Andrew needs to coordinate potential fixes to the junction names, as not all of them may be correct on the NRPC map, and will propose notations to the highway connector on the map, which currently just shows a simple line that ends near the highway.

Liz will be taking some new photographs of the property to replace the photo currently in use on the map cover.

A company called ESRI will also be producing an interactive version of the map, potentially including a mobile app to navigate the property.

6. Andrew and Matt had walked the Falls Loop trail to investigate a few areas of erosion concerns. Two areas were identified that can be addressed:

- 1) The uphill section of the left-hand Falls Loop trail just above the retention pond is starting to erode a gully in the main trail. A small culvert will be dug just above this to divert water off the trail. This can be done during the upcoming trail work day.
- 2) Another part of the Falls Loop trail at the river junction just past the town DPW access point has several large roots that stick up significantly and present a hazard. Karen will ask the town to deliver a small amount of road-fill base to cover the roots and smooth the trail.

7. The spring cleanup trail work day is scheduled for May 6.

**Meeting Minutes:**

February 28, 2017 draft minutes were presented and approved 4-0-1 with a minor correction to the spelling of Debra Huffman's name. Andrew abstained due to his absence from the 2/28 meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim, seconded by Rebecca; Motion carried: 5-0-0.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:05.