



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

**WILDCAT FALL SUBCOMMITTEE
(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2014**

Present:

- Karen LaBonte
- Andrew Duane
- Jane Josselyn
- Rebecca Brenton
- Two Neighbors of Wildcat Falls (Anne and daughter, Heather)

Meeting was called to Order 6:32 PM in the Merrimack Town Hall Conference Room

New Business:

1. Discuss non-motorized boat launch
 - a. Karen brought the idea of having a non-motorized boat launch from within Wildcat Falls.
 - b. There are currently two existing boat launches on the river (one at DPW and another at Seaverns Bridge Rd).
 - c. Although a nice idea, personnel wanting access to the river would need to carry/portage their kayaks/canoes from the parking lot.
 - d. In addition, there are no safety barrels just north of the Falls and someone new to padding the area may be unaware of the danger.
 - e. We decided to NOT pursue this any further, but would post a notice on the kiosk about existing boat launches on the river.
2. New delegate to Wildcat Falls Subcommittee
 - a. Lauren Kras has volunteered as the new ex-officio member replacing the vacancy left by Simon
 - b. Karen will forward this announcement to all members of the WCF Sub-Committee with Lauren's contact information

Old Business:

1. Follow-up discussion on Trail Work Day, July 22nd, 2014 on the new North Loop Trail.
 - a. One member of the community joined members of Wildcat Falls sub-committee (Matt, Karen, Andrew, and Jane) on Trail Work Day
 - b. A small section of the trail that was too steep for safety was relocated and has greatly improved the footing, slope, and erosion resistance.
 - c. Brush and downed tree clearing was also completed on the new trail.
2. Trail posts, signage, materials and cost to continue marking trails
 - a. See note 4B below.
 - b. Andrew took an action to follow-up with Matt regarding best practice on 'sinking posts'.

- c. Jane took an action to contact local Scout troop to inquire if they would assist us in the Trail Marking.
- d. We identified 9/13 or 9/14 (depending on Matt's availability) with a rain date of 9/20.
 - i. We would like to walk all trails with Matt and cover up all prior paint markings, replacing them with the new white signs (trail markers)
 - ii. Post Installation Work
 - iii. Post all remaining signs
 1. Karen indicated she had requested 3 "No Swimming" signs
3. Progress made gathering information for making a map of Wildcat Falls for official/public use
 - a. Draft map has been completed.
 - b. Andrew reviewed plan with the Conservation Committee and we agreed to post:
 - i. One large map with Contour lines to be posted at the Kiosk, also to be published on the town website.
 - ii. Handout maps at kiosk will not contain contour lines
 - iii. The final draft needs to be reviewed/approved with the Conservation Committee prior to official distribution/posting
4. Report from Merrimack Conservation Commission meeting on August 4
 - a. Andrew attended the MCC meeting that hosted a presentation by the Town Center Committee. They have made progress on completing the Town Center trail from Watson Park to the Merrill's Marauder's bridge. This trail will ultimately connect with the Wildcat Falls trail system.
 - b. The draft version of the Wildcat Falls trail map was shown. Targeting the 9/13 meeting to present a completed map for approval.
 - c. A short announcement was made about the completion of the North Loop trail.
 - d. It was agreed in principle to fund approximately 20 intersection markers
 - i. Andrew to author formal proposal to capture exact requirements for markers/posts.
5. Schedule time with Matt Caron for tools to finish clearing North Loop Trail
 - a. Recommended 9/13 or 9/14. Karen to follow-up with Matt and confirm date.

Committee Member Comments:

- Karen indicated a "neighbor" complained of trail blockage from her yard to the Falls. Neighbor further indicated she would clean it up. This was not placed on her property, rather is part of the Wetlands.
- Recommend that Matt be made aware and we use his guidance to provide a response to the 'neighbor'.
- Karen did not provide the official name of the 'neighbor'.
- It was proposed that the Kiosk have a hinged Plexiglas cover to protect the new map and other signs. We will target this activity for 2015.
- Andrew reported that the Google+ page is wildcatfallspark@gmail.com. Karen was going to investigate posting photos to Google+
- Jane indicated we still have an open item regarding Camping at Wildcat Falls. We should either remove the sign at the kiosk, or identify the plan for camping.
- With the expansion of park trails, there are now 4 entrances to Wildcat Falls. Do we need a smaller kiosk at the additional entrances?

Community Member Comments:

- Two members of the community were present (mother and daughter). They were excited to see the progress made on the North Loop Trail and the signage/trail maps.
- We encouraged them to continue to join us for Trail Improvement days, and our bi-monthly meetings.

Presentation of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from April 14th reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept by Andrew, seconded by Karen, motion passed 4-0-0.

Meeting minutes from June 10th reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept by Andrew, seconded by Karen, motion passed 4-0-0.

Adjournment:

1. Motion to adjourn was made by Jane; Seconded by Andrew; Motion carried – 4-0-0.
2. Meeting adjourned at 7:42