



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department  
6 Baboosic Lake Road  
Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

603 424-3531  
Fax 603 424-1408  
[www.merrimacknh.gov](http://www.merrimacknh.gov)

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

**WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)  
Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2022

## **Committee Members Present:**

- Andrew Duane
- Karen Labonte
- Elizabeth Petrides
- Mike Boisvert

## **Call to Order:**

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

## **Public Comments:**

No public comments

## **New Business:**

- Since the MCC approved the funds for the North Loop Trail bridge replacement, a date was set to do the work.
  - With the current heat wave, it was decided to wait until fall when it would be easier to work. Saturday October 15 was chosen, with a rain date of Sunday October 16.
  - Andrew will arrange logistics with Reeds Ferry Lumber to make the deliveries directly to the park, likely late in the week before the 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Merrimack DPW has agreed to pick up the debris from the old bridge after demolition. Mike will contact Lori at DPW to make arrangements. He also requested that a few treads be salvaged from the old bridge to effect repairs on another MCC property.
- A fall cleanup day to take care of a few things before winter is also planned.
  - It was decided to have it on the same day as the bridge reconstruction, to simplify the pool of volunteers.
  - There is some brush to be cleared off the trail sides on the North Loop Trail, and there needs to be a full sweep to refresh trail blazes on the trees. Some have come down over the years. Mike also mentioned that Dog Beach may need some cleanup.

- Liz will talk to the Michael LoVerme Memorial Foundation to ask for volunteers, as well as put up a flyer in the Merrimack Library and make a posting on Merrimack Outdoors.
- Karen will contact Adam French at Merrimack High School about having one or more students take part in activities at Wildcat Falls. It was suggested to start with the Science Department to look for potential projects and interest.
- 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:**

- Liz confirmed that Rivet Funeral Home has not yet done any research about transporting the MLMF granite bench into Wildcat Falls.
  - Initial scouting by Andrew indicates that both ends of the North Loop Trail are impassable with a 600-pound bench piece. The proposed approach from the abutter is several hundred yards through thick brush and trees, and also impassable.
  - 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 will follow up with Rivet to see about options. A different bench design may be needed (e.g. similar to the existing one on the Falls Loop Trail).
- Two of the 5 trees that DPW was contacted to remove have been cleared, but three remain on the North Loop Trail. Their locations have been tagged by Andrew; Mike will contact DPW about getting them removed.

- A discussion was had offline about No Parking signs for the left hand side of the parking lot. It was decided that 2 “No Parking Between Signs” will bracket the edges of the boundary, and approximately 2 simple “No Parking” signs will be in the middle. Mike and/or Karen will bring the proposal to the MCC for approval before contacting the DPW.

### **Committee Comments:**

- Karen commented that DPW has been doing a good job mowing around the retention pond.
- Andrew indicated that erosion remediation has not been satisfactorily completed, and he will present a more detailed proposal to MCC in the spring.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

The April 2022 meeting minutes were read and approved after correcting the names of Mr. and Mrs. LoVerme.

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

### **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.