

**Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee
of the Merrimack Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of the Meeting
January 28, 2013
7:00 p.m. Merrimack Memorial Meeting Room**

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Matt Caron, Debra Huffman

Call to order: Chairman Newt Coryell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MCC Annual Report: The Merrimack Conservation Commission gave their annual report to the Town Council, and Matt Caron provided a summary of the report. He stated that the MCC is going to start subcommittees for Wildcat Falls and the Grater Woods area. The MCC will use the HHNP subcommittee as a model for these new subcommittees.

He also stated that the MCC has funds available for maintenance of town properties, and if the HHNP subcommittee needs funds they should submit requests to use the funds. He also stated that Roshan Tadi donated \$341 to the HHNP fund.

Volunteers: Debra Huffman stated that a new eagle scout candidate is interested in a project on HHNP. She has sent him one idea (making signs and maps for the new trail off Greens Pond Road), but she was looking for other ideas to offer him. The committee determined that the only trail project in the near future is the Blodgett Hill trail, but that will be a very difficult task and is probably not appropriate for an eagle project. Creating the wildlife blind is a possible project. Debra will ask Lynne Wenz if she would like a scout to take on the wildlife blind project.

Trail Markers: Matt Caron reported that the painted markers on the Loop Trail need to be refreshed, but that there are too many of them and only some should be repainted. The committee agreed. Newt Coryell stated that the Bureau of Trails has discontinued using the reflective diamond trail markers, and he offered to ask if they have left over markers that they would be willing to donate to HHNP. The committee agreed that it was worth exploring; Newt will follow up.

Matt also stated that Post 6 needs to be improved, and he suggested putting a street-type sign on it. Newt offered to make a new post with better wording. The committee also agreed that an additional sign is needed between posts 6 and 7.

Matt also stated that people are walking on a discontinued trail in a very wet area, east of Lastowka Pond, heading toward the power lines. He will block the trail and asked that the committee keep an eye on the area.

Winter Carnival: Newt Coryell stated that the MCC will have a table at the Winter Carnival on February 23rd and asked if the committee would like to participate. Newt will attend, but he will be giving rides on his snowmobile. Roland Roberge and Debra Huffman

volunteered to represent HHNP at the carnival. Roland will bring 100 HHNP brochures and Debra will bring a large map for display. Debra will also make three large copies of the map to replace the older maps in the kiosks.

Snowshoe Race: Newt Coryell reported that there will be a snowshoe race on February 9th, and he has received all the necessary paperwork from the race organizer. There will also be a foot race in July and August.

To Do List for 2013: The committee asked Debra Huffman to remove the completed items from the 2012 To Do list, and place the remaining items in the minutes as the start of the 2013 To Do list. The list for 2013 is:

1. **Finish marking the HHNP perimeter.**
2. **Install a wildlife blind.** In progress.
3. **Measure mileage between posts and put it on posts and the map.**
4. **Add some new signs to help people find their way and to better identify discontinued trails.**
5. **Install a culvert near post #14 (top of Rocky Trail) and fix the washed out area.** This project may not be necessary. The committee will keep an eye on the area in the coming months.
6. **Monitor the wet spots on the Blodgett Hill Summit trail between post #2 and Ryan's bridge and make improvements as required.** Done, but it has been dry. The improvements might hold or might not. It hasn't been tested.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 8, 2012 were approved as presented by a vote of 4-0-0.

Comments from Members: Roland Roberge stated that he had to remove the screws in the kiosk at post 9 to install Debra's information sheets, and the screws broke. He suggested that in the future kiosks should be built with clearance around the screws. He also suggested that there be a gap between the wood and the plastic to allow room for tacks to hold information sheets. The committee agreed.

Roland also stated that someone from NHFA left a phone number in the comment book, and he asked if anyone knew what NHFA might mean. The committee thought it might be the Frisbee Association. Roland will call him.

Newt Coryell stated that he will be installing a post next to Ryan's bridge (at the base of Blodgett Hill). When he grooms the trail with his snowmobile, the drag falls off the bridge. The post will prevent the drag from falling off.

Newt also stated that committee members need to be aware of when their term expires. He asked Debra to check the records and bring the list of terms to the next meeting.

Debra Huffman stated that posts or markers are needed at both ends of Charlie's trail. Newt will make some signs and posts and Matt will install them.

Debra also stated that she spoke with committee member Charlie Hamilton. His health has been steadily improving and he had hoped to be at the meeting, but he recently suffered a setback and was not able to come. He hopes to make it to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on April 8th, 2013.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.