



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE (of the Merrimack Conservation Commission) Meeting Minutes January 11, 2022

Committee Members Present:

- Andrew Duane
- Gina Rosati
- Elizabeth Petrides (remote via telephone)

Note: Member Elizabeth Petrides attended remotely via telephone due to Covid. All votes were taken via audible roll call.

Call to Order:

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

Public Comments:

No public comments

New Business:

- The new MCC policy forbidding all chainsaw use on the Merrimack conservation properties by volunteers was discussed. The new policy is that trees that need to be removed or felled should be marked and communicated to the DPW. Mike Boisvert on the MCC is a central contact for all requests and will communicate them to the DPW.
 - There are a few downed trees interfering with trail passage and one standing tree that presents a hazard. Andrew will mark the trees and Gina will contact Mike with the information to pass on to the DPW. The trees will be felled or removed from the trail but are to be left on the ground for wildlife habitat purposes.
- The repair of the bridge on North Loop trail was discussed. The damage is restricted to a small area on one of the support beams and one of the top steps. Andrew indicated that repair should be possible and will attempt it in early spring. Liz indicated that one or more members of the Michael LoVerme foundation could assist if needed.
 - If repair is not possible, a rebuild of the bridge will be considered as a possible Eagle Scout project, or potentially a Merrimack High School shop team project.
- The suggested chain link fence along the wetland (east) side of the parking lot to help enforce "No Parking" was discussed.

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- Gina will discuss requirements and restrictions with the MCC, as it impacts a wetland riparian zone. Parks and Recreation will also need to be consulted.
 - The consensus was that a chain link fence would not be suitable for that purpose, and alternatives were discussed. The ideas of either a metal or wooden guard rail from the DPW were better received. These could have "No Parking" signs attached.
- The committee discussed a cadence for meetings for 2022 (and beyond). Andrew suggested a quarterly cadence: January (for over-winter maintenance discussions), April (for spring cleanup and preparations), July (for mid-summer activities), and October (for closing down and fall cleanup activities) on the second Tuesday of the months was suggested. Liz seconded; motion was carried 3-0-0. Gina will contact Stefanie Brinn to schedule.

Old Business:

- The padlocks securing the gate at the entrance have been corrected. The code number to open the key locker at the kiosk was distributed to subcommittee members.

Committee Comments:

Gina indicated that she will be stepping down from the MCC (and thus leaving as delegate to the WCF subcommittee) but will be joining the WCF subcommittee full time. Ellen Kolb has indicated a desire to be the new delegate.

Meeting Minutes:

The January 2020 meeting minutes were read and approved without changes.
Andrew moved to approve, Liz seconded; approval was 3-0-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Andrew, seconded by Liz; Motion carried: 3-0-0.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.