

HORSE HILL NATURE PRESERVE

Meeting Minutes: January, 29, 2018

In Attendance: Peter Mikolajczuk, Tim Adams, Don Laliberty, Sharon Hickey, Rose Shajenko, Cindy Glenn.

Guests: Bruce Peterson

1. Peter called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.
2. Tim Adams brought up the issue of dog waste being left in the trails, or even worse, where the waste is picked up in a plastic bag, but then discarded or thrown into the wooded areas off trail. We continue to discuss the best way to resolve this on-going problem. Don Laliberty offered the suggestion of supplying bio-degradable bags which would be kept at the Amherst Rd kiosk and develop a sign asking dog owners to use the bags supplied. Don will provide pricing at our next meeting. All were in favor.
3. Bridge repairs noted in previous minutes. All lumber needed to make these repairs has been cut and donated to HHNP by Newt Coryell. Peter will make stated repairs in the spring. A BIG THANK YOU to Newt! All in favor.
4. The Old Horse Hill trail, which was a wide multi-use trail, has been replaced with a curvier (switchback) single-use trail. In an effort to provide an environment whereby the old trail be allowed to naturally grow vegetation, there was discussion about the best way to encourage use of the new single-use trail. There was no final resolution on this issue.
5. Tim Adams has volunteered to confirm that there is a notebook, for the purpose of users of HHNP to report areas where maintenance is needed. The notebook should be located at the Kiosk at Amherst Rd.
6. Bruce Peterson was a guest at the meeting. He is seeking to fill an alternate roll on the HHNP sub-committee. He was directed to send an e-mail to Gage Perry of the conservation commission and to attend their next meeting.
7. Cindy Glenn presented signs, which ask users to return the maps to the kiosks. The signs are proposed to be posted at all map holders. Peter states the signs are not water proof and will deteriorate quickly as a result. Further, Sharon voiced concern to this sign as the appearance is stark and do we really want to promote someone's used and dirty maps be replaced to the holder? A suggestion was brought forth by Sharon to have a sign which encourages conservation by urging users to re-use their maps, or to use their mobile device. There was no resolution to this matter. Cindy will ask the MCC about providing GPS coordinates.
8. In a motion brought by Tim Adams and seconded by Don Laliberty, the meeting minutes of the 10/9/2017 meeting were approved as written.
9. Rose Shajenko suggested that a map holder be erected and supplied with maps for use by the public at the kiosk located at post 14. She has volunteered to install the holder and keep the holder supplied. Motion by Rose and seconded by Peter.
10. Guest Bruce Peterson has suggested that since we are in the midst of hunting season, there should be education available. There was no motion, nor was there direction on how the education be delivered nor on its content. This item needs further discussion and direction for implementation.

11. Don Laliberty voiced a concern about the right-of-way that is maintained by EverSource. He cites that there are several large logs which have been stacked and left to rot in a section of the right-of-way. Cindy has volunteered to ask the conservation committee about this issue.
12. Don also advised that once the HHNP determines the best way to remedy the beaver population, that we consult with NH Department of Fish & Game.
13. Tim Adams asked for an update from the MCC or the Town of Merrimack related to the citizens who have violated the natural vegetation at HHNP. One citizen drove a skidder through the HHNP which caused major damage to wetlands and natural vegetation, as well as the citizen who removed trees bordering the HHNP along Naticook Rd. Both of these incidents violated the natural vegetation and demonstrated unlawfulness. The HHNP sub-committee unanimously voiced concern that since there has been no recourse taken by authorities against the individual violators, there is an implication that these actions which damage the natural vegetation are permitted.
14. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018 in the Matthew Thornton room
15. Motion to adjourn was brought by Don and seconded by Tim.