



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE (of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023

Committee Members Present:

- Andrew Duane
- Karen Labonte
- 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:

- The subcommittee meeting cadence was decided on and formalized. There will be 4 regular meetings per year on the first Monday of each quarter. The general topics for each meeting are:
 - January – a recap of the previous year and a look ahead to projects and needs for the upcoming year. Long-term plans for the area should be discussed. For presentation to the MCC if needed.
 - April – organizing the spring cleanup and preparing the area for the summer season. This will include arranging with DPW to perform any necessary tasks
 - July – peak summer season discussion of problems found, and ongoing maintenance
 - October – preparing to close the area down for winter. Discuss any fall cleanup and maintenance items that are needed.
- Mike mentioned that a few wooden trail signs are being made, and a discussion followed as to whether the Wildcat Falls area could use any. One was suggested to improve visibility of the Falls Loop trail where it splits left from the main “road” part of the trail.
- The long-term parking situation was discussed, and it was agreed that some solution will be needed. Andrew has volunteered to bring this up at a winter meeting of the MCC for discussion. The current parking lot overflows even in winter, summer will be very difficult to manage.
- Andrew will also bring up formally requesting the DPW to do permanent drainage remediation on the Falls Loop connector to the Power Line. Continuing erosion is not being stopped by simple regrading and

raking. 2 drainage swales above the erosion area are needed to divert water. Further discussion of other minor erosion areas will be postponed until the April meeting.

Old Business:

- DPW has not responded to requests for “No Parking” signs to be installed along the left-hand side of the parking lot (by the wetlands). Mike to contact Community Development and engage the MCC.
- More maps need to be ordered as supplies are low or exhausted. Mike indicated that the MCC appears to want to reprint all area maps to contain the recently revised Chapter 111 rules. The subcommittee will wait for MCC to advise.
- Liz has still not heard from the MLMF about installation plans for the bench. It is not clear whether they have contacted the funeral home to inquire about transport to the location or if they are considering an alternate bench style that is more easily installed.
- Karen had not yet contacted Adam French at MHS about student involvement in the subcommittee. Mike has drafted a letter to the school outlining the idea. Karen and Andrew are reviewing it before the letter is sent.

Committee Comments:

- The new bridge on North Loop trail installed last fall seems to be holding up well and is still very sturdy.
- Andrew indicated that a few recent hikers thanked the subcommittee for their work in maintaining the area and keeping the trails clear, easily passable, and well-marked.

Meeting Minutes:

The August 2022 meeting minutes were read and approved after correcting that Karen has not yet contacted Mr. French at the high school. Andrew moved to approve; Mike seconded; approval was 3-0-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Andrew, seconded by Mike; Motion carried: 3-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.