



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Grater Woods

(Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Wednesday June 14, 2023

Memorial Conference Room

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 6:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey LeCours

Gage Perry

Amy Wood

Mike Boisvert

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Marble

Paul Labrie

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- The subcommittee accepted the appointment of Mike Boisvert as a subcommittee member for a 3-year term. The vote was unanimous.
- Seasonal mud issues on Castor Trail:
Castor Trail has a section which collects water and makes it challenging for people to use, especially the kids who use this trail during the school season to reach Merrimack Middle School. There is concern over the segment of the trail that passes through property that is not owned by Grater Woods and address trail needs for this section. Gage intended to talk with Tim Thompson in regards to the property lines here.
- Gateway Trail mowing request (13' wide for emergency vehicles) was sent out. The hill from Conservation Drive was mentioned as also desiring a cut. Mowing is also requested from the middle school parking lot to the fate on Beebe Lane, the Wildlife Opening 1 area, the Red Maple trail that comes from the Wildlife Opening 1 area to the Conservation Drive entrance, and the section of Red Maple that comes from Conservation Drive and heads west to the boulders in the middle of the trail where it turns.

- With the new development (Chestnut Hill) bringing in a new use case for Grater Woods, the Grater Woods Subcommittee discussed the potential of an entrance to the trail system, which could link into Ridge Trail or Skyline potentially.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no trail day due to weather and availability. No "rain date" set. We'll try to address the repairs when subcommittee members are available.
- Maintenance updates:
 - The outdoor classroom roof repair work still needs to be done. The material is at Lowes and waiting to be picked up by Gage. GWSC will find a day to pop over and install it as this relatively light work.
 - The Bambi Lane bridge has some broken deck boards that need to be repaired. This area is a bit overrun with poison ivy which makes it difficult to work in. A temporary solution of dropping some plywood down to make the bridge more safe to use for the time being was suggested.
 - Ridge Trail still has water issues near the overflow area. We believe there might be a malfunctioning pipe that is not correctly sending water to where it should. Suggestions were made to reach out to Community Development for the Chestnut Hill Development.
 - The bolts on the gate going in from Grater Road were tightened.
 - Some trail markers on Grater Woods Trail / Overlook Trail had fallen off over the winter and still need to be replaced.
 - There are washout issues near the Beebe Lane entrance. We talked about solutions to handle the erosion, including cutting in a short staircase. No work has been done on this yet.
- Parking issues (people not parking in a sane orientation and/or blocking neighbors) on Beebe Lane had been raised in the past. Jeffrey LeCours had called the town and was referred to the Highway Safety Committee who mentioned a follow-up e-mail would be sent.
- Amy Wood brought up educational walks/talks which have been held at GWSC over the years as a nice goal to maintain. Gage is to reach out to Jeffry Littleton about walks this year. This lead to a discussion about how to get the word out and working with Community Development about having official town-run social media (Facebook) groups for communicating this better.
- We have not made any trail map updates (to reflect that Chapter 111 Conservation Areas changes)
- There have not been Stewardship plan appendix updates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 12, 2023 meeting minutes were approved

Motion by Gage Perry

Seconded by Amy Wood

Motion Passed

Adjournment: The June 14, 2023 meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Motion by Jeff LeCours

Seconded by Gage Perry

Motion Passed