



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

## Horse Hill Nature Preserve Meeting Minutes

### Special Meeting: Proposed trail modification

Date: November 28, 2016

**In Attendance:** Newt Coryell, Roland Roberge, Deb Huffman, Cindy Glenn, Don Laliberty, Peter Mikolajcuk, Tim Adams, Tim Tenhave and Sharon Hickey

1. Call to order at 7:02PM
2. Discussion surrounding the proposed trail modification.
  - a. Background. The trail going over Horse Hill is very washed out largely due to bike traffic. Matt Caron has presented a new trail which will allow the traffic to be routed using a different route, and the current trail would be closed.
  - b. The current trail is a multi-purpose trail. Since the new proposed trail is a single track trail, the HHNP SC (sub-committee) has voiced concern in that the new trail should allow for multi-purpose use, since it will serve to REPLACE a current trail designated for multi-purpose use.
  - c. The new proposed trail is routed very close to Long Pond. The HHNP SC is concerned about the wildlife that calls Long Pond their home. The HHNP BOD has an eye toward preserving the quality of the natural habitation for the benefit of the wildlife. There are many heron's nests surrounding the pond, and the habitat of many other wildlife species will be placed in jeopardy by using the proposed route. The BOD feels strongly about this issue.
  - d. Deb Huffman of HHNP SC has offered an alternative route which will totally avoid Long Pond which will preserve the wildlife habitat surrounding Long Pond. The original proposed route would be used at the beginning of the proposed route, and alternative route would be used at the midpoint to avoid any traffic close to Long Pond.
  - e. Resolution. This topic will be "tabled" at the present time. The current trail will continue to be used at this time. The MCC and HHNP SC will work together with 2 goals in mind. One is to create a more suitable route to avoid Long Pond and also will be designed for multi-purpose use. This issue has been tabled until spring, since it is too late in the year to make any changes at this time. The motion was brought by Newt Coryell and the motion was seconded by Sharon Hickey. The motion was passed with 5 yes, 0 no and 3 abstain.