



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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**WILDCAT FALL SUBCOMMITTEE  
(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2014**

**Present:**

- Karen LaBonte
- Andrew Duane
- Jane Josselyn
- Rebecca Brenton
- Simon Thomson
- Matt Caron (joined after another meeting and departed early)

Meeting was called to Order 6:30 PM in the Merrimack Town Hall conference room

**New Business:**

1. Discuss adding step to provide safety/easier access on a portion of North Loop Trail heading down to the river
  - a. Discussed using existing logs to create steps
  - b. Matt agreed to assist in the creation of a switchback or Bench Cut. He would also bring a wheelbarrow.
    - i. Karen was going to inquire about parking new the end of the North Loop Trail and using the "neighbors" yard so we didn't have to carry the tools a greater distance. She would also point out the Private Property signage we have previously posted – as a gesture of goodwill to our 'neighbor'.
  - c. This is priority for us at the Park and the members will work on this on 7/22 at 5:30 pm
  - d. Karen agreed to contact Tim Tenhave on the MCC and inform him of our work effort and requested that it be added to the Merrimack Outdoors Website
2. Discuss Water Testing / monitoring well heads located inside/along the North Loop Trail
  - a. Karen indicated she had contacted the Merrimack Village Water District
  - b. They do manual monitoring and do not require vehicle access
  - c. There are 2 well heads along the North Loop Trail
  - d. No issues with the trail building
3. Set a date for outdoor meeting at Wildcat Falls this summer to continue adding trail markers and trail posts where needed
  - a. A new sign has been posted at the Kiosk informing personnel that trail marking is in progress and that no additional markers (spray painting) should be added
4. Open topic regarding wild life protection on conservation land...the beaver has been very busy blocking the culvert at the entrance to Wildcat Falls off of Currier Road
  - a. Karen provided us with a flyer regarding Beaver

- b. The conservation committee is aware of the beavers within all the Merrimack parks, not just Wildcat Falls
- c. Emails can be sent to Adam Jacobs at merrimack.gov if issues persist

**Old Business:**

1. Follow up discussion on trail clean-up on May 12, 2014
  - a. Karen, Rebecca, Andrew and Jane met to continue work on the north loop trail on 5/12/2014.
  - b. As a result, it was determined we should discuss adding steps (see New Business #1) on a steep downhill section of the north loop trail.
2. Trail posts/materials and costs to continue marking trails
  - a. Sign Update:
    - i. On 5/12/2014 – new Conservation Area Boundary signs and Private Property signs were posted.
    - ii. Additional signage is needed at the Falls. There is a sign that warns the public about safety and swimming at the Falls. This may be a “Town sign” – Karen will follow-up with Tim.
    - iii. White Conservation Area signs – Karen has identified two additional areas for posting.
    - iv. No Motorized Vehicle signs – we should also place one at the entrance from the State Highway/State Property.
  - b. Trail Posts:
    - i. Recommended we use one at each intersection
      1. There are approximately 16 intersections within the Wildcat Falls area
      2. There are approximately 6 more within the State area (we would not do these first, our priority is the Wildcat Falls land)
      3. Recommending using 8’ - 4x4 posts with metal tags; with natural color painted on posts
      4. Andrew took action to call DPW regarding digging of the Post Holes, and to investigate the cost of the posts and renting a post-hole digger.
    - ii. Matt indicated that the Grater Woods Park has similar sign posts and that we should take a look at what they have completed.
3. Progress made gathering information for making a map of Wildcat Falls for official/public use:
  - a. Jane and Andrew have continued working on the trail map. A draft was reviewed which shows the intersections of the trails, topography and a scale.
  - b. We discussed the naming of the 3 main trails:
    1. North Loop Trail
    2. Power Line Trail
    3. Falls Trail
  - c. The map will be presented to the Conservation Committee for approval prior to posting at Kiosk and providing flyers for hikers/visitors to the park.

**Committee Member Comments:**

1. Entrance to Wildcat Falls Parking Lot
  - a. Need to request DPW to fill-in the potholes at the entrance to Wildcat Falls Parking Lot. Karen took action to follow-up
2. Email address for Wildcat Falls Park

- a. Andrew will investigate using Google+ as there is an issue with creating an email alias on Gmail that doesn't look like a person's name. Google+ will also allow us to share photos of the park, etc.
3. Camping at Wildcat Falls
  - a. Jane inquired about obtaining camping permits as the Kiosk indicates one can obtain a permit for camping.
  - b. Simon was going to follow-up with Tim on the process/policy.
4. Google has corrected the Park name to Wildcat Falls Conservation Area, and now properly links to the Merrimack Outdoors website.
5. Simon indicated his term will be expiring on the Conservation Committee at the end of June. If anyone is interested they should submit their names. He will continue to support the Wildcat Falls subcommittee, but an official liaison from the Conservation Committee will be identified in the future.

**Presentation of Minutes:**

Meeting minutes from April 14<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed at next Wildcat Falls Meeting for acceptance.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Simon; Seconded by Rebecca; Motion carried – 5-0-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM