



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

October 12th, 2015

7:00 p.m. Matthew Thornton Room

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Peter Mikolajczuk, Cindy Glenn, Debra Huffman

Guests: Sharon Hickey, Matt Caron

Call to order: Chairman Newt Coryell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Volunteers: Debra Huffman did not have any update on volunteer activities.

To Do List 2015: The committee provided a status update on the To Do list:

1. **Finish marking the HHNP perimeter.** No progress.
2. **More gravel by Ryan's bridge:** Completed.
3. **Culvert behind the Taylor's old house:** Newt will look at the area to see if a culvert is still needed.
4. **Research improving the Loop trail from the parking lot to Lastowka Pond to make it ADA compliant:** Peter Mikolajczuk has been researching this and is in contact with Peter Jenson Associates, who designed the trail at Crotched Mountain. He will continue to update the committee as he learns more. Newt Coryell asked if there would be any problem with this still being a fire access trail. Sharon Hickey asked if having dogs off leash will create a problem for physically challenged visitors. Matt Caron asked if the distance was too long for motorized wheelchairs. Peter will follow up.
5. **Improve fill by the first culvert and up the hill beyond the well.** Newt and Roland will work on this.

Planter Update: The committee discussed what the next step should be to improve the planter. It was decided that the planter should be cleaned up this fall, leaving the items that look neat, and completely redesigned and replanted next spring. Newt suggested that maybe Depot Farm Stand could be approached to see if they would like to donate some items and have an acknowledgement placed on the planter. Cindy Glenn commented that it would be best to set up a work day and let everyone know in advance that weeds and invasive plants will be removed. Sharon Hickey commented that she likes the blueberry bushes.

Committee Membership: The committee discussed the fact that several committee members do not attend meetings and do not do any work on HHNP. This creates a burden for other committee members, and prevents new members from filling those seats. The committee would like to set up rules for attendance, but it was unclear if the committee charter would have to be revised. Matt Caron informed the committee that Adrian Cote no longer lives in town. Newt will send him a letter advising him that only town residents can serve on the committee. Deb Huffman will contact Becky to request that a letter be sent to Adrian Cote thanking him for his service. Sharon Hickey will submit a letter of intent asking to join the committee to replace him.

Parking Lot Expansion: Newt reported that there was a walk-through to look at the parking lot expansion. It looks like the parking lot can be pushed back about 50' to add about 10 parking spaces, and it can also be expanded by a few spots toward Roland's house. It's now in Tim Tenhave and Kyle Fox's hands. Kyle will engineer it and Tim will look at the financial aspect. It would be useful to get some of the fill and equipment donated if possible. This will be the big project for 2016, probably beginning in the spring.

Approval of Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of July 13th by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1 with Peter abstaining.

Comments from Guests: Matt Caron expressed concern about the Watanic Bowmen archery shoots. He stated that they are shooting across the trail, and the trails are not adequately posted, and there have been complaints. It was agreed that all trails in the area must be posted in both directions a week before the shoot, and that all trash (such as pie plates on trees) must be removed after the shoot. The committee discussed that allowing the shoots was a trade-off for being allowed to use the Bowmen's parking lot. Newt will contact John Hall to discuss the problem. Matt Caron suggested that Mr. Hall or another representative of the Bowmen might want to attend the next MCC meeting, at which the issue will be discussed.

Sharon Hickey asked about hunting season. Newt stated that the dates are always posted in the kiosks, and that archery season for deer has already started. Muzzleloader season will start at the end of October, followed by shotgun season.

Comments from Members: Newt reported that he will put posts in front of the kiosk to prevent the snow from being plowed too close. He also reported that he and Roland have rebuilt the bridge on the trail behind the Watson house. He has also built bridges to be placed by the Lastowka pond, but they are heavy and will require several people to put them in place. Peter said that he and a few friends might do it.

Roland reported that he has put bark mulch around the flowers on the east side of the parking lot entrance.

Debra reported that she will ask Amy Casparius to add Sharon Hickey, Don Laliberte and Richard Maloon to the distribution list for HHNP. Currently, Debra sends them a separate e-mail advising them of meetings, and she sometimes forgets to do this. Debra also reported that the newest route being discussed for the NED natural gas pipeline no longer crosses HHNP, although that route could change again at any time.

Next meeting: The next committee meeting will be on January 11th, 2016, in the Memorial Room at Town Hall.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.