

WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE

(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2018 (DRAFT)

Committee Members Present:

- Karen LaBonte
- Andrew Duane
- Elizabeth Petrides
- Gina Rosati

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Public Comments:

No public comments

New Business:

A. Spring Trail cleanup

- Andrew completed a walk of all major trails and found little winter damage. There is one tree impinging on (but not blocking) the North Loop Trail that will need to be cleared with a chainsaw.
 - ⇒ Andrew will attend to this when possible.
- Many trail blazes were replaced as needed on both the North Loop and Falls Loop trails. The blue markers are breaking more often due to a stiffer more brittle plastic.
- Gina to ask the MCC about equipment to remove the abandoned steel cable near the sandpit. There are safety concerns with leaving it in place.
- Erosion at the bottom of the Falls Loop trail has worsened. Plans for the repairs were organized. This repair will be the focus of the “spring cleanup”.
 - ⇒ Elizabeth indicated that the LoVerme foundation could provide some volunteers to move gravel as needed.

- ⇒ The trench markers are still in place from last fall's marking.
- ⇒ Karen will communicate with Gage Perry about a presentation to the MCC concerning DPW acquisition and delivery of material and major excavation.

B. Parking lot

- The parking lot and access road have been graded and are in good shape.
- Gina to ask the MCC about the material used in the Horse Hill parking lot and whether it could be used at Wildcat Falls to hold down dust, mud, and ruts.
- A discussion of the parking lot size was had. On many summer days, the parking lot fills up quickly and visitors must park on the surrounding neighborhood streets.
 - ⇒ No ready solution is available as there is no room to expand the parking lot.

C. Kiosk and entryway post

- Elizabeth will refill the map box at the kiosk when possible, and inquire about new or replacement signs for the bear warnings and other signs.
 - ⇒ The map box is broken. A new one will have to be procured.
- Andrew will call mainelyticks.com about an official tick warning sign.
- Tim Tenhave will replace the large map inside the kiosk.
- Gina to ask the MCC about replacement "official" signs on the entryway post indicating Merrimack Conservation Commission ownership.

Old Business:

A. Picnic Table

- The material for underneath the picnic table in its new spot was delivered by the DPW and spread by Andrew, Gina, and Karen. The picnic table is now across the road from the drainage pond rather than next to it, to accommodate grass cutting.

B. "Introducing Your Parks"

- Gina will talk to the MCC about coordinating "Introducing your parks" across all of the town conservation areas for late spring/early summer.
- A geocaching demonstration was considered for Wildcat Falls, but there are no caches in the park. There are some in Horse Hill, which could be used to host an event, or a temporary cache could be placed in Wildcat Falls.
 - ⇒ Andrew is reaching out to a local geocaching resource to discuss placing a cache and/or leading the demonstration.

- Elizabeth is working with the Merrimack Public Library on their summer youth programs to incorporate into these activities.

C. Birdwatching Walk

- The previously discussed birdwatching walk has been cancelled.

D. Rebecca Brenton has left the subcommittee. The webpage will be updated to reflect this, and publicity to seek new members will be designed. The town website, and Facebook will both have announcements. Additionally, temporary notices will be placed on the kiosk and at the town library.

Meeting Minutes:

January 2018 draft minutes were presented. A few corrections were made, to be submitted to the town. Motion for approval was made by Liz, seconded by Gina, and approved 4-0-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Liz, seconded by Gina; Motion carried: 4-0-0.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.