

## WILDCAT FALLS SUBCOMMITTEE

(of the Merrimack Conservation Commission)

### Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2017 (DRAFT)

#### Committee Members Present:

- Karen LaBonte
- Rebecca Brenton
- Andrew Duane
- Elizabeth Petrides
- Tim Tenhave
- Gina Rosati

#### Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Community Development Conference Room.

Tim Tenhave introduced Gina Rosati as the new subcommittee liaison from the MCC.

#### Public Comments:

1. No public comments

#### New Business:

1. Depression on the North Loop Trail

An erosion area was identified on the North Loop Trail that might need a small bridge or railing constructed to insure safe passage. Liz indicated that if needed, the LoVerme Foundation would be willing to do the construction. A short discussion of procedures for getting a materials estimate from Reeds Ferry Lumber was had.

2. Erosion on the Falls Loop Trail and Connector 1

Two areas of severe erosion by intersection A near the retention pond have been identified.

The first area is on the portion of the Falls Loop Trail just past the intersection A marker. This serves as the town access to the river, and needs to be maintained by the DPW. Karen will contact Lori at the DPW to make them aware.

The second area is just up the hill on connector 1, which is the emergency vehicle access to the falls, power lines, and sand pit. This area has severe erosion and may need water bars (diagonal diversions) installed to prevent future erosion after repairs. Karen and Andrew will reach out to Matt Caron to inspect the area and develop a plan.

### 3. Granite Memorial Bench

A request was made by a town resident to install a granite memorial bench within the park. The request will have to follow the same procedure as the LoVerme Foundation request to place their benches. The donor and the subcommittee must agree on a location before the request is passed on to the MCC. A short discussion of the logistics of moving a granite bench to certain areas of the park was held.

It was previously decided to place a picnic table near the retention pond just inside the park entrance. Karen will discuss placement with the DPW, to make sure that access is not impeded for town maintenance of the pond and surrounding structures.

### **Old Business:**

#### 1. Facebook Page

Facebook denied the committee's request to take ownership of the "Wildcat Falls" Facebook group due to our inability to produce documentation such as utility bills proving that our "business" exists. A discussion was held concerning getting the town involved to present alternative documentation, as well as just picking another name such as "Wildcat Falls Merrimack". Liz to continue researching.

Tim reminded committee members that when posting personal comments to social media pages they should post as individuals and not as committee members or page owners, as this implies they officially represent the town in the post.

#### 2. NRPC maps

Karen had 50 copies of the new NRPC tri-fold maps printed. New maps will be provided for the kiosk box, as well as a full size map for the kiosk itself. A reprint is being done crediting the printer, who is now providing the maps for free in return for the printed credit.

A company called ESRI will also be producing an interactive version of the map, potentially including a mobile app to navigate the property.

#### 3. Picnic Table Location

The location of the picnic table by the retention pond continue to be considered. The table was moved by the town to mow the grass around the pond, and it is currently in tall grass that presents a tick problem.

A new location on the other side of the Falls Loop Trail was proposed. There is plenty of room for the table, and the area could be cleared and filled with gravel to prevent ticks. A roof could also be installed. It will be investigated.

#### 4. The Bird Walk held in spring was a great success, an unofficial count showed 28 people attended. The topic of more bird walks being held was discussed.

#### 5. A short discussion of parking overflow was held. During peak times, the parking lot becomes full and people are parking in posted "no parking" areas in the lot as well as on the surrounding residential streets. This may become a problem with abutters.

Committee members will keep an eye on peak parking, and take an unofficial census of when the lot becomes close to full. If needed, ideas for expanding parking will be considered by the MCC.

**Meeting Minutes:**

April 2017 draft minutes were presented. Motion for approval was made by Andrew, seconded by Liz, and approved 5-0-0.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Andrew, seconded by Liz; Motion carried: 5-0-0.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:35.