



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

WILDCAT FALLS CONSERVATION AREA SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 28, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Elizabeth (Liz) Petrides
Karen LaBonte
Rebecca Brenton
Tim Tenhave

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 in the Memorial Conference Room.

Public Comments:

1. No public comments

New Business:

1. Schedule dates for upcoming meetings:

- Park meeting date set for 5/6/17 at 10 am.
- Liz will contact the Michael Lo Verme Memorial Foundation (MLMF) to solicit volunteers for assistance.
- Spring cleanup will be conducted at this time. Work will be done to thin out any pine trees that are growing close to the parking lot. The area needs to be kept flat so that snow can be plowed away. The goal is to create a natural fence near the existing privacy fence. Over time, a privacy fence will no longer be necessary due to natural growth.
- Future meetings only need to be held quarterly. 2017 meeting dates determined:
 - 4/11/17 at 6:30 pm
 - 8/8/17 at 6:30 pm
 - 11/14/17 at 6:30 pm

2. Picnic Table

- There is no picnic table at the park currently. One possible area for the picnic table is just inside the park by the detention pond. There may be a clearance requirement around the detention pond. Karen will speak to Lori Barrett to see about having a table brought in once the weather improves, and to also determine what restrictions might exist. If it is within close proximity to a tree, Tim will look into purchasing a chain to make sure it is secure.

3. The map box at the kiosk is empty. Rebecca will e-mail Amy Casparius and loop in Karen to request more be printed.

4. New Posts and trails

- Tim asked if there are other places the sub-committee would like to bring in posts to help improve navigation of the park. If new posts are made, there is a possibility that someone with an auger could be contracted to install them in difficult to reach places. Rebecca was unsure if she and her husband would have time to make new posts, but the town might be able to do routing of posts over the winter when it's slow. At the 4/11/17 meeting the sub-committee will discuss where more posts could go, if any. Tim mentioned that the possibility of new trail creation shouldn't be excluded as an option.

5. Park Maintenance

- Liz brought up a concern about water pooling under the powerlines. Karen will e-mail Matt Caron to request that he take a look and to advise what can be done. Tim will need to check easement to ensure that there are no restrictions.
- Karen is concerned about roots across the trail just off access road by the river. She will ask that Matt Caron look into this as well.

Old Business:

1. Sponsored activities at the park

- Rebecca still working with her sister to determine a date and time for a bird watching later this year.
- Karen spoke with Debra Huffman about brainstorming future events at the park. The Conservation Commission would like to have an event every month between all the major properties. There may be possible issues with liability if it is a town sponsored event. The Conservation Commission is trying to understand implications before proceeding. Karen will include Liz in future discussions.

2. Social Media

- Liz provided an update about the Facebook page. In order to gain access to the existing Facebook page, the wildcatfallspark@gmail.com e-mail account will not be sufficient. Tim suggested linking it to the merrimackoutdoors@merrimacknh.gov e-mail address. Tim and Gage Perry have access, and would receive the confirmation e-mail. Once the Facebook page is set up, Tim can add links to the website to direct people.
- Karen will be monitoring the wildcatfallspark@gmail.com going forward.

3. Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) Mapping.

- The NRPC are updating other properties before they work on the Wildcat Falls Conservation Area. The goal is to have approved drafts for all properties by the end of April.
- Tim mentioned trail names and descriptions should be considered and reviewed. Karen will add an agenda item for the 4/11/17 meeting to discuss.

4. Revisit need for "no hunting" sign of fall's loop trail.

- Karen received an e-mail about a hunter being spotted on state land. Hunting is allowed on state property, and no sign can be posted there. Additionally, town ordinance doesn't allow discharge of weapon, but weapons are permitted on the property.

Meeting Minutes:

Tim moved to approve the November 15, 2016 minutes as amended tonight. Seconded by Rebecca. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Tim moved to approve January 24, 2017 draft minutes as amended tonight. Seconded by Rebecca. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Karen, seconded by Liz. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.