



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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Grater Woods Subcommittee MEETING Minutes December 3, 2013

Meeting started at 6:38PM

7 members in attendance: Nat Fairbanks, Joe Cogan, Matt Caron, Shannon Barnes, Roger Blais, Ron Davies, and Steve Desilets

Members missing were Adam Dodge, Tom Lehman, and Steve Bachand.

Jason Wright a resident of Merrimack was also in attendance.

Public comment. (6:46PM)

Jason grew up in Merrimack and recently returned to Merrimack. Shortly after he moved to Merrimack he discovered the trails in Grater Woods and he often runs/hikes outdoors. He is interested in conservation and stewardship. Jason is interested in finding out more and would like to offer assistance where he can. He noted that many towns' people may be unaware of what is out there and what is being done with the property etc. He noted that the intersection signs are good however the printed trail map is difficult to follow. Jason also noted that he is interested in snowmobiling but is unable to tell from the map/website what trails it is allowed vs. not allowed.

Potential actions to review after infrastructure actions are completed.

- Put permitted usage signs at trail intersections (ATV, Snowmobile etc)
- Update online maps for easier reading when printed
- Include Signs along the trail to indicate what trail you are on.
- Put up signage at private property or non-GW trails to indicate private property.

Discussed Red Maple Bridge going in on Saturday: (7:03PM)

Prep work occurring on Friday night (Matt) for the Red Maple Bridge.

Work will occur on Saturday Dec 7th (start approx. 8:30AM).

Members planning to assist with the work on Saturday:

- Roger Blais
- Matt Caron
- Shannon Barnes
- Adam Dodge
- Jason Wright- May stop by to assist (resident)

Bridge at intersection of Gateway /Gateway Hill: (7:20PM)

- Quote has been provided but not approved by the Conservation committee.
- Quote details of the bridge construction were shared during the meeting (decking /pressure treated etc.). Cost of quote is \$3284.62
- Bridge is going in at the bottom of gateway hill. (date to be determined)
- Bridge will be in 4 sections and will be wide enough for 4wheelers/snowmobiles (and will have snow rails)
- Bridge will not be wide enough for 4 wheel drive vehicles (not allowed).
- Bridge will be brought in with heavy equipment via school access road. GW subcommittee needs to give school notice of when we will have the work performed.
- Looking to bring this to the quote to the conservation committee meeting for Dec 16th.
- If approved would like to put in prior to snow and prior to spring (while the ground is firm and as early as Christmas school vacation (12/20-1/2/14).
- **Sub -committee voted to move this forward.**

South Grater Road gates (7:42PM)

- Gate placement and project being driven by the Conservation Committee (gates will block trucks but allow 4 wheelers).
- Second gate will be near nature conservancy land (Wilson Hill side)
- Discussed that shooting activities on Nature Conservancy land may be going towards (D2 , D3 –not developed trails).

Member Terms:

- An ex-officio member will have a 1 year term.
- Steve Bachard, Adam Dodge, Roger Blais, and Steve Desilets are 1 year terms
- Joe Cogan, Matt Caron 3 year terms
- Shannon Barnes 2 year term.
- Discussed voting in a new alternate member.

Discussed Eagle Scouts:

- Looking for Eagle Scouts for potential project work for Grater Woods (Kiosk at Beebe Lane, signage etc.)

Purchase of signs:

- Discussed purchasing of signs (no /ATV, hikers, Snowmobiles etc.)
- Matt suggested he can put together proposal (medallions/ signs) etc.
 - By consensus Matt was voted in to put in the proposal.

Question to be raised about a mention of a forestry project. Matt will bring up at Conservation Committee meeting for more details on what this project would be.

Meeting ended at 8:23PM.