



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Jan 7th Grater Woods Subcommittee meeting January 7, 2014

8 members in attendance: Nat Fairbanks, Joe Cogan, Matt Caron, Shannon Barnes, Roger Blais, Thomas Lehman, Jason Wrght, and Steve Desilets

Members missing were Adam Dodge, and Steve Bachand.

Rob Clemens from the Amherst Conservation committee was in attendance.

Meeting started at 6:45PM.

Discussed completed bridge projects:

Red Maple Bridge was completed on Saturday Dec 7th and Gateway Hill Bridge was completed on Dec 28th. Discussed that bridge has been tested with snowmobiles and feedback was great, angle of bridge placement and size of bridge worked well.

Conservation Drive – OHRV access:

Discussed that the location of conservation drive for wheeled OHRV access may be an issue for the neighbors as people load/unload them. Concern is that they may “run” them up and down the street before entering the trail system. The other issue is that part of Red Maple is closed to OHRV but OHRV’s have been using them.

The subcommittee may need to suggest to the conservation committee an alternate for wheeled OHRV access if the access causes an issue with neighbors. We will monitor the situation to determine if any changes need to be made.

South Grater Road gates:

The subcommittee needs to examine the South Grater road entrance and determine the exact location of the gate. Sub-committee wants to work with the forester as part of the plan. Thomas Lehman will provide a copy of the forestry plan with the committee.

Grater road gate:

We discussed potential locations for a gate at top of grater road road near Amherst property. Rob Clemens will mention/bring up the subject at the Amherst Conservation committee for possible placement of the gate on Amherst town property.

Trail Marking/signs:

We discussed that we need to install signs for trail usage. Sub-committee has observed some OHRVs are accessing/using trails that are prohibited. Plan is to order signs such as “No motorized wheeled vehicles”, Private property, to private property, as well as permitted use signs (hiking/biking/skiing etc.)

Gateway Hill repair:

Discussed that in the spring we will schedule some work on gateway hill/bridge area to leverage some of the loose rock and address the ramps for the bridge access. The sub-committee will also need to build rock/water bars for gateway hill to address the drainage issues on the hill itself.

Kiosks

Locations: mentioned Bebe Lane, Conservation drive, and

Gateway Trail Improvement project: resurface needed to repair damage to the sections of the trail. Benefit would be to all trail users and school /runners. Part of the improvements would benefit the school but would need the School board discussion.

Eagle Scout projects: No current scouts identified, however there may be a scout interested in building an overlook near the BeBe lane beaver pond. Matt C. will reach out to the scout to revisit the topic.

First Responder Day: Idea was to have first responders actually perform/test access to the property. This will confirm that emergency staff can access the trail with their vehicles to get to people in case of emergency. This activity can also be used as promotion for the Grater woods trail system.

Blood Road/Bambi Trail Bridge: Kids walking to the school use the trail however the trail needs bridges. Section is very large. Needs cleanup of trash.

Approved minutes from 12/3/13 meeting (approved 5, 0, abstain1).

Next Meeting: scheduling for 2/15 in the woods to put up signs.