



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

March 11, 2014

7:00 p.m. Town Hall Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Matt Caron, Amanda Yonkin, Adrian Cote, Angela Martin, Debra Huffman

Guests: Tim Adams

Call to order: Chairman Newt Coryell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Volunteers: Matt Caron reported that Harry Watt and several of his friends and neighbors have volunteered to take care of the duck boxes on White Pine Swamp. They put up four new ones (provided by Eber Currier), took down old ones, and rebuilt two. They reported that there was residue from six eggs in the old ones. Lynne Wenz took care of the boxes on Lastowka Pond. The boxes on Goose Pond (at the intersection of Greens Pond Road and Naticook Road) have not been done yet. Since it's now too warm, they will not be done this year.

Membership Terms: Newt Coryell informed the committee that the Merrimack Conservation Commission realigned the membership terms to better align with their process. The committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the new terms.

To Do List: The committee reviewed the 2014 to-do list:

1. **Finish marking the HHNP perimeter:** No progress. Amanda Boerner volunteered to help with this in spring.
2. **Work on new signs with GPS/mileage:** No progress. Deb Huffman will work on this.
3. **Place better markers on existing trails:** Matt Caron reported that the Merrimack Conservation Commission purchased the signs and they will be in soon. The Loop will be marked with white reflective squares. Side trails will be marked with blue. The committee will install them when they are available.
4. **Make improvements near post #14 (top of Rocky Trail):** This is still a problem spot. The existing bridge is too narrow. A culvert might be needed, and a small backhoe would help. This would be a good eagle project.
5. **Erosion on the Loop Trail, past Post #2:** Newt and Roland will work on this in the spring.

New Trails and Trail Conditions: Several members of the committee stated that the trails are in good condition this winter. Newt Coryell has been dragging the trails with his snowmobile after

snow storms, and Matt Caron, Angela Martin, and several other mountain bikers have also been dragging “groomers” (sleds with ice blocks or sand bags) behind their bikes.

Newt stated that he needs to put a post near Ryan’s bridge to prevent his groomer from being pulled off the bridge next year.

Signs need to be posted for mud season to alert bikers and horse riders. Newt will make the signs and put them up. One will be on the post near the main entrance rather than in the kiosk for better visibility.

Roland Roberge reported that several people have complimented the new trail up Blodgett.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of December 3, 2013, were approved as presented by a vote of 7-0-0.

Comments from the Public:

- Tim Adams stated that he put up pink tape on the Ledges Trails to be able to find them in the snow. It worked well for this year, but better permanent markers would help in the future.

Comments from Members:

- Newt Coryell stated that PSNH is clearing under the power lines. He also stated that he and the SnoBuds will pull three old cars out of the property this summer. Newt also stated that he received \$200 from the proceeds of the snowshoe race. He gave the money to Paul Micali for the HHNP account.
- Roland Roberge stated that the snowplows have knocked over some of the wall and the bench in the parking lot. Roland also stated that two bikers had a small sterno stove in the parking lot and the police were called. The committee didn’t feel that warming your hands over a sterno stove in a parking lot should be illegal. Roland also stated that the dog waste in the trails is worse than ever this year. The committee agreed that something must be done. Debra will write a sign and Newt will post it.
- Angela Martin stated that some of the trails, Twister especially, have numerous small stumps that can be hazardous. The committee agreed and will work on removing them.
- Matt Caron stated that there are several muddy spots to be filled.
- Debra Huffman stated that she will continue improving the maps with GPS and mileage data from Tim Adams.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 9th, 2014. Newt will book a conference room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.