



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

## Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission

### Minutes of the Meeting

November 10, 2014

7:00 p.m. Matthew Thornton Room

**Attendees:** Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Tim Tenhave, Angela Martin, Amanda Yonkin, Debra Huffman

**Guests:** Don Laliberte, Sharon Hickey, Richard Maloon, Cindy Glenn, Betty Philo, Matt Caron

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

**Volunteers:** Debra Huffman reported that Tim Adams would like permission to replace the pink markers on the Outer Ledges Trail. The committee stated that they did not know who took them down and gave its permission for Tim to replace them. Tim Tenhave stated that the Merrimack Conservation Commission will order additional blue markers. Tim Adams should use these instead of the pink tape if they arrive before the first snow.

Debra also reported that, as requested at the last meeting, she followed up with Jeanne Powell of the Heritage Commission about maintenance at the Spalding foundation. Jeanne stated that the Heritage Commission does not have any projects planned for that area and believes the HHNP committee can proceed with their maintenance next spring.

**To Do List 2014:** The committee provided a status update on the To Do list and removed some completed items. The new list is:

1. **Finish marking the HHNP perimeter.** Richard Maloon and Tim Adams volunteered to help when a group goes out to do this work.
2. **Place better markers on existing trails:** Richard Maloon volunteered to put up the rest of the white markers on the Loop Trail. Newt will call him to arrange to get the markers and nails to Richard.
3. **Make improvements near post #14 (top of Rocky Trail):** Matt Caron has done some work there, but it really needs a culvert.
4. **Add stone from post #2 to Ryan's bridge, and after the bridge:** So far this year, the area does not need extra stone. Newt and Roland will keep an eye on this.
5. **Culvert behind the Taylor's old house:** The beaver are making a mess of this area. It needs a new culvert. The MCC has spoken with the new owner at Taylor's house and it seems that they will be helpful. Newt will introduce himself to them. The committee might need to deliver material when the ground is frozen or very dry.

6. **Work with the NRPC on GPS coordinates:** Tim Adams sent some GPS coordinates to Tim Tenhave, who sent them to the NRPC. He has not heard from them since.

**Garden at Signpost on Amherst Rd:** Newt reported that the Garden Club has agreed to take on this project. Tim Tenhave recommended that Helynn Wenz be given a chance to rescue any plants she might want before the new planting. He also stated that the Garden Club should be reminded to watch for and eliminate invasive species. Sharon Hickey volunteered to help with mulching in the spring.

**Trails, Trail Conditions, and Signage:** Don Laliberte reported that he has been working on the bridges near Lastowka Pond. They need to be rebuilt, using 4x4s with 2" planks on top. He also reported that beavers have taken down a lot of trees in that area lately.

Tim Tenhave reported that Matt Caron has noticed that since an abutter dropped trees over an old trail, ATVs are using the Greens Pond/Naticook Rd area to enter HHNP. Tim stated that the MPD is visiting the MCC next week, so if the committee knows of any ATV activity they can notify the MPD then.

Newt reported that the bridge near the Watson's property (not on a maintained trail, but used as an access for maintenance) needs to be rebuilt. He has the materials on site already.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of August 11, 2014, were approved as presented by a vote of 4-0-2 with Amanda Yonkin and Angela Martin abstaining.

#### **Comments from the Public:**

Betty Philo, of Farmer Road, brought up three issues:

- There is a hunter's stand on HHNP near her property. She was advised that the MCC has not received any requests for permission to erect a stand so the stand is illegal. The owner's name and address should be on the stand. A member of the committee and/or MCC will follow up.
- Betty has not seen much beaver activity at Lastowka Pond lately so she was concerned about the health of the beaver population. Richard Maloon has seen and heard them lately, and there has been increased activity near the eastern side of the pond, so the committee believes the beaver population is healthy. The MCC has not authorized any beaver trapping at HHNP.
- Betty was nearly hit by a biker recently. She stated that bikers go too fast and are not using enough caution for the safety of hikers. She wondered if the committee could put up signs to help slow the bikers. The committee stated that biker speed has been discussed in the past and signs were supposed to go up last year, but they didn't. The committee agreed that signs should be put up to see if they would help. Roland Roberge advised Betty to tell him whenever she sees any unsafe bikers and he will speak with them. Newt stated that as trails are completed at Grater Woods the bikers will be more dispersed.

Richard Maloon asked if the HHNP trail markers should use other colors beyond blue and white. He thought they should be coordinated with the colors used on the map. The committee discussed the proposal and acknowledged that having only two colors could be confusing. Grater Woods uses multiple colors and shapes to designate various trail uses, but that is not appropriate

on HHNP. Debra will create a sample map using only blue and white to see if that is less confusing. The committee will discuss this again.

Matt Caron suggested that the trail route be modified by Rashaan's kiosk (post #9). ATVers have been damaging that area, and narrowing the trail will be helpful.

**Comments from Members:**

Tim Tenhave stated that discussions are under way to place a natural gas pipeline under the PSNH easement that crosses HHNP. He stated that the public can get more information online.

Roland Roberge stated that several people have noticed and appreciate the bench erected in memory of Harold Watson.

Debra Huffman stated that there has been a complaint from a visitor to HHNP, who was jumped on by dogs in September. Roland said he will keep an eye out for anyone with dogs who are not under their control and he will remind them of the rules. Debra also stated that she visited Harold's bridge and she complimented Newt for its beautiful design and construction, and Roland, Matt and the others who helped install it. She stated that the location is perfect.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in the Matthew Thornton room.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.