



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

HORSE HILL NATURE PRESERVE SUBCOMMITTEE JANUARY 16, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Newt Coryell, Roland Roberge, Deb Huffman, Cindy Glenn, Don Laliberty, Peter Mikolajczuk, Tim Adams, and Sharon Hickey and Rose Shajenko

Held at Merrimack Police Department

1. Proposed trail (as discussed in special meeting of 11/28/2016) continues to be a “tabled” topic. The HHNP sub-committee intends to walk both proposed trails in the spring 2017. At that time, the MCC is invited to conduct to “walk through” along with the HHNP sub committee.
2. The meeting minutes of 11/28/2016 were approved as written. Peter Mikolajczuk commented that the statement with in the minutes referring to erosion between post marker 14 & 15, which is below in red, cannot be fully attributed to bike traffic. “The trail going over Horse Hill is very washed out largely due to bike traffic.” His comment is duly noted.
3. OLD BUS. The beaver dam at Watson’s Bridge continues to be problem. The beavers have completely stopped the flow of water and there is a large amount of debris under the bridge. HHNP sub-committee member Don Laliberte has been cleaning up the debris as his time allows, but a more permanent solution is warranted.
4. New Map.
 - a. Picture on the front of the map. There is a suggestion that the picture be in black & white and a simpler photo which has a higher contrast. This suggestion is for the purpose of lower cost at the time that we print the maps.
 - b. There is also a suggestion to involve the community of Merrimack by holding a contest that folks could go onto the preserve with their cameras and enter the photos in a contest. The HHNP would then select a winner by using the photo on the front of the map.
 - c. It is important that a town of Merrimack designated employee have the rights/access to the computer program that will be used by the NRPC is order that updates/changes can facilitate.
 - d. The draft of the map did not include the width of the trails. This aspect is important as it would pertain to the permitted use of the trails.
 - e. The “trail segment” needs to be pulled down or repositioned to allow for the names of the surrounding streets (Hutchins & Cummings) to be visible. Currently they are covered by the trail segment.
 - f. Add contact info on the map for the community to use in the event they would like to utilize any of Merrimack conservation areas for an event, ie snowshoe race, weddings, running races, etc.

- g. Need to have an elevation key to display the summits of hills and the level of severity of the climb.
 - h. Lower font on trails.
 - i. HHNP needs to be in large font on the cover.
 - j. Add Lastowka well. The draft doesn't include it.
 - k. Blodget Hill by-pass is not an official name.
 - l. Power lines need to be more prominent.
 - m. Palmeri is not part of HHNP and is not maintained.
 - n. Reduce the font on Twister.
 - o. There are no streams noted on the map. This is an important item which should be included.
 - p. There is no topographical info. This is an important aspect for a map.
 - q. The draft map is too busy.
 - r. Add GPS coordinated for safety.
5. Trail names. Fatcat will be re-named Plumber Trail. Blodget Hill By-pass will be the 2nd trail to the summit. This motion was brought by Deb Huffman and Peter Mikolajczuk seconded the motion.
6. Yield signs have been well received by the public and the sub committee has received positive feedback.
7. Condition of the HHNP. Don Laliberty reports a few old discarded tires. He has volunteered to remove.
8. In preparation for mud season, Deb Huffman will create signs to use caution and to avoid leaving marks. Peter M. will post on the property.
9. Eagle scout. No activity.
10. Boundary Marking. Don Laliberty will establish a few dates for the spring to mark the south and northwest boundaries.
11. 2017 To Do List.
 - a. Continue on the boundary marking
 - b. Beaver pond resolution at Watson's pond.
12. Discussion to change the frequency of the HHNP sub committee quarterly meetings. Newt motioned with a second by Sharon Hickey to keep the quarterly frequency with willingness to hold "special meeting" if an issue arises that warrants immediate discussion.
13. Deb H. introduced a request by the MCC to hold 4 events at HHNP, (1 per quarter), which will be open to the public at no cost. A few suggestions were made to include a workshop to identify wild mushrooms, novice mountain biking and snow shoeing. These ideas will be developed.
14. Merrimackoutdoors.org website has been updated.
15. Drones. The sub committee has no authority to approve usage of drones on the property. Future discussion.
16. Adjourned at 9:00 by a motion brought by Newt and seconded by Deb.