



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

July 11, 2016

7:00 p.m. Matthew Thornton Room

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Sharon Hickey, Lynne Wenz, Peter Mikolajczuk, Cindy Glenn, Don Laliberte, Tim Adams, Debra Huffman

Guests: Rose Shajenko

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

New Member: Cindy Glenn announced that the MCC approved Tim Adams as an alternate member of the HHNP committee. The committee welcomed Tim and thanked him for stepping up.

Volunteers: Debra Huffman reported that volunteers from Levi Strauss are scheduled to do trail maintenance on Wednesday, July 13th. The committee decided that the work should be canceled due to the excessive heat forecast for that day. Debra will try to reschedule.

Newt Coryell reported that he mowed the area around the Spalding foundation and the trail across from the foundation.

Scout Project at the Spalding Foundation: Peter Mikolajczuk reported that Blake was not able to attend tonight's meeting. The committee decided that they will hold a special meeting to allow Blake to present his project. Peter will follow up with Blake.

Parking Lot Expansion: The committee was unanimous in its praise of the parking lot work. Newt stated that there are some dead trees that the committee will remove next spring, after the grass is established. The Town didn't put the bench back, but Newt and some volunteers will do it. The town has stated that they do not want to put the posts back up. The committee expressed concern about the kiosk getting plowed in if the posts aren't there, but they will see how it goes next winter.

Whether or not a wastebasket should be added to the parking lot was discussed. The committee's consensus was that they would rather not have a wastebasket because it could attract skunks and other wildlife, and can become overfilled.

Reground asphalt will be available when the town resurfaces Meetinghouse and Amherst Roads, if the committee and the MCC want to use it to surface the parking lot. Roland Roberge stated that he is not concerned about its impact on his well because the asphalt is old and the oil is already washed out of it.

Updates from the MCC: Cindy Glenn stated that relatives of Emma Cook came before the MCC to talk about placing a memorial bench in the parking lot area. The committee approved of the idea, and it was agreed that placing it on the east or west side of the gate would be appropriate so it doesn't get plowed in. Placing it near the picnic table would also be appropriate. Cindy will keep the committee updated on the project.

Cindy also stated that the MCC has had an inquiry about a resident holding a wedding on HHNP on September 9th, 2017. The committee stated that they would be sure not to have any other major activities going on that day, like an organized run or trail work.

The town has hired an expert to examine the trees that were cut on the Wasserman Heights easement. The MCC will suggest planting some trees to repair the damage. The committee requested that a forester be consulted to ensure that the right type of trees or shrubs be planted to have the best chance of success.

Annual Parking Lot Cleanup: Sharon Hickey reported that the annual cleanup, held on April 10th, was very successful, with about eight people in attendance. The committee thanked Sharon for leading the effort again this year. Newt stated that there is one dead tree remaining that he will take down.

Planter at the Parking Lot: Newt and the whole committee complemented Lynne Wenz on the excellent job she did on the planter. Lynne stated that she put in drought resistant plants and lots of compost. The whiskey barrel is planted with seeds that will emerge later in the season. Newt encouraged Lynne to submit receipts for the compost and other items so she can be reimbursed from the HHNP account.

Election of Officers: Since two members' terms will expire at the end of July (both of whom stated that they intend to apply for renewal), Cindy Glenn stated that the position of the MCC is that the committee cannot elect officers for the next year at this meeting. Debra stated that she found this very odd, since those two people are officially approved members at this time, and they should be eligible to vote on any matter before the committee at this meeting. This has never been raised as an issue in any previous year. In deference to the MCC position, the committee did not elect officers. In future years they will hold their third quarter meeting in August to avoid the issue.

Watanic Bowmen Shoots: Newt reported that there are shoots coming up on July 31st and August 26th and notice has been posted. Peter reported that the Bowmen have been doing a good job of posting and cleaning up. Newt met with the Bowmen twice to discuss procedures, and the Bowmen went before the MCC to also discuss procedures.

Boundary Marking: Don Laliberte reported that on April 23rd he led a group to attempt to locate and mark the boundary on the northeastern side of HHNP. Tim Adams took pictures of the existing markers they found and also noted GPS coordinates. Don and Tim went out again at a later date and found additional markers. Don stated that the most recent map he has been given, created by Meridian in 2007, does not have GPS coordinates on it and he questioned whether this

was the final map. Don requested that the MCC assist in locating the final map or any map with GPS coordinates on it. Cindy Glenn stated that Tim Tenhave gave her a CD with maps that she believes are in Autocad format. Peter Mikolajczuk offered to assist with the Autocad files. If successful, he will get the results to Don and Tim. Tim also offered to help with the Autocad files if Peter is unsuccessful.

Parks and Recreation Hikes: In response to a suggestion from Matt Casparius to offer activities at HHNP in coordination with the Parks and Rec department, Tim Adams led a hike for families on HHNP, and he is leading another one on Saturday, July 16th at 9:00 a.m. Lynne Wenz stated that she has been in contact with Kim Murphy of Audubon about leading a hike specifically for children (accompanied by an adult) that would be focused on water studies.

Broken Board and Damming at Bradish Bridge: Newt Coryell stated that he has the board to repair the Bradish bridge. He will give it to Peter to do the repair.

Peter Mikolajczuk stated that beaver damming is still an issue near that bridge and might place the bridge in danger of flooding. It was unclear whether the beaver expert hired by the MCC had visited the area or not. Don Laliberte stated that he is willing to lead the beaver expert to the location and gave him his cell phone number, but the expert never called Don. Tim Adams also volunteered to go out there with the beaver expert. Cindy stated that she would get an update from the MCC about the progress of the beaver expert.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of April 11, 2016, were approved as presented by a vote of 8-0-0.

Comments from Members:

Lynne Wenz asked if the MCC has tried to purchase any of the properties that have been available recently near HHNP. The answer was no, because the properties have been too expensive.

Cindy Glenn stated that the MCC has decided to hire the NRPC to do mapping of all MCC properties. They will start with Wildcat Falls, and will probably do HHNP next. Debra expressed concern about how the maps will stay up to date, since changes are made to the trails periodically to close off damaged areas or reroute trails. Cindy will ask about that. Roland Roberge asked if the MCC will now take over creating and printing the brochures, and Cindy thought that would be likely.

Don Laliberte stated that he has replaced the faded directional arrows on the trails. The old ones can be repainted and reused.

Peter Mikolajczuk stated that the marking tape on the Outer Ledges trail should be replaced. Tim Adams will replace the tape with blue paint. Peter also complimented Newt, Roland and Tim on the job they did on the new boardwalk. There are still two sections that need work. Peter also stated that he and Matt Caron marked a new trail route on Horse Hill. The committee should walk the route and get comments to Peter before July 25th, then Cindy will get it on the MCC agenda for approval.

There was general discussion about maintenance of the trail under the power lines, especially if the Levi Strauss volunteers aren't able to do the work. Use of a weed wacker or sickle bar mower would be useful.

Tim Adams suggested that the invasive roses near the left side of the main entrance be cut back. Newt will work on it.

Debra Huffman thanked all of the committee members for all the work they've done lately.

Roland Roberge gave kudos to Newt and Tim for the work they did on the walkway. Newt stated that they still have to add gravel at each end.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be held on October 10th. There might also be a special meeting held during the summer to hear the Eagle scout presentation and to elect officers.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.