

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, March 22, 2012

Present: Ron Bailey, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, John Taylor, John Trummel, Peter Shumway

Short items

Rinker bikes. Signs have been posted at the Rinker Tract announcing the impending transfer of bike traffic from the heart of the natural area to a new bike trail and inviting volunteers to work on the new trail. Taylor said that the UVMBA has scheduled work days there for April 21 and 22. This comfortably meets the previously announced deadline of Trails Day, June 2.

National Community Civilian Corps. Julia Griffin has suggested that Hanover apply for a team from this branch of Americorps. She seeks project suggestions from the Conservation Commission. McIlroy responded that between trail work and invasive-plant removal, we could probably find two weeks' work, but not a whole summer's worth. It is not known yet whether such short-term assignments can be arranged.

Aggie Kurtz Trail. Chainsaw work to complete the clearing work started by Nicole Cormen was done by McIlroy, Cormen and Shumway.

Trescott Ridge/Hayes Eagle-Scout Project. Teddy Geraghty showed McIlroy the route for this trail from Woodcock Road to the Etna Library. The exact alignment will be flagged before work begins. Hemlock logs that have fallen on site will be split to make puncheons for the Woodcock end. The trail will be completed at least through the town's Trescott Ridge parcel. Depending on the amount of effort needed to get through the wetland and associated boulder field, the project may extend into the Hayes property.

Indian Ridge escape route. Permission has been sought from DHMC to provide an alternate northern trailhead on Medical Center Drive, which could be used to circumvent the rough and sometimes icy northern section of the Indian Ridge Trail.

Taylor report. Ross Smith and volunteers at Hypertherm have adopted Highway 38 and are completing steps at the Stevens Road end of the Great Hollow Trail. Taylor made a sign for the latter trail. Hypertherm has also placed three miles of trail on their land in the Trail Finder database. Hopefully they can be put on the next town trails map as well.

A visit to South Esker showed that last year's improvements have held up well. Some unknown person pruned some hemlock there.

Taylor visited the Slade Brook bridge site with Craig Sanborn of the Cardigan Highlanders trail crew. They believe hemlock stringers could be obtained on site. He will talk to Vicki Smith about contacting NH Fish and Game, who hold an easement on the property.

He suggested that the Tanzi reroute to avoid crossing the wet swale, (to be built by Youth in Action) could detour around the swale instead of stopping short of it. McIlroy will look into this option.

Trails day

In addition to previously announced possibilities, Mlacak mentioned a planned new trail that would provide a walking loop at Greensboro Ridge. Work would be coordinated by the Hanover Conservancy.

Other business

Taylor said that DOC is rehabilitating the Ski Loop trail on Moose mountain, which has been thoroughly blocked since the ice storm of 1998. Aooarently the trail has been renamed.

Taylor will attend an American Trails workshop on interpretive trails, which he will report on at a future meeting.