

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Agenda, March 12, 2013, Black Community Center

Short items

- UVTA contract
- Balch Hill signage
 - Reduction of clutter
 - Kiosk changes--content and corrections, see attachment
- General trail conditions

Trail map

- Last-minute corrections, see
 - <http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~doug/trailmap2013.pdf>
 - <http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~doug/traillist2013.pdf>

Trail improvement

- Planned in 2013
 - Rhino signposts
 - Trail-name sign style
 - Additional locations, see February minutes
 - Sources for post-hole diggers
 - Goodwin bike loop (UVMBA)
 - Parking, dependent on grant (DPW)
 - Ridge trail work day, May 14
 - River trail work day (HHS)
- Further candidates
 - Odds and ends at Rinker Bike Loop
 - Trails between Moose Mt Road and AT
 - Blazing needs
 - Implications of possible Dana subdivision
 - Other trails
- Long-term wish list
- Formal lists as monthly attachment?

Other business

Next meeting April 9

Attachments

- February minutes
- Balch Hill in 19th century

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, February 12, 2013

Present: Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, Pete Shumway, John Taylor

Visitor: Alv Elvestad

Short items

Trails map revision. McIlroy said that he's not been able to work on the map, due to having been away for several weeks.

Maple Trail. The Hanover Conservancy has paid to remove one downed tree. It's on town property, so we owe them big thanks for backing up the Commission's empty budget.

River Trail. Taylor said that the Earth Day project of Hanover High's environmental club will address three areas: repair of timber reinforcement, installation of more steps to control erosion, and building a final crib at the flood crossing. After snow melt, he and McIlroy will reconnoiter to determine materials requirements.

Balch Hill. Taylor has worked with the Hanover Conservancy on Balch Hill, removing trees to maintain views per the management plan.

Safe routes to school

One item in the 54-page report of the SRTS committee is of concern to the trails committee: upgrading the Girl Brook East Trail for bicycle use, from Verona Avenue to Reservoir Road. The trail would be widened to 10 feet and surfaced with hard pack. A minor rerouting would place the Reservoir Road trailhead in the Garipay parking lot instead of the Dartmouth Day Care Center.

To navigate the steep drop down from Verona Avenue, a 180-foot fill ramp at 8% grade is proposed, contrary to a previous report that a small ramp would be installed to allow bikes to be walked down the existing staircase. The trails committee noted that this large new ramp would involve disturbance of much—possibly most—of the property, and merits the Commission's attention.

Ridge trail

Skiing from Enfield to Moose Mountain Lodge, Alv Elvestad found many downed trees after the first mile, which he maintains. Linell had reported similarly about the section north of Mascoma Peak. Elvestad also found that brush needs to be pruned back to accommodate skiing. He recommends that the trail be cleared twice a year, whereas this has been done recently only about once every two years. He thinks one chainsaw and a sizable crew of wood-movers and pruners can do the job in one session.

It was decided to organize a work party instead of the committee's normal meeting on May 14. McIlroy will invite the Enfield Conservation Commission to participate.

Placement of new signs

One of the new Rhino signposts that Vicki Smith has obtained was displayed. An initial list of places to install them was drawn up:

- Rinker bike-trail intersection
- Great Hollow Trail, both ends
 - Indicate parking lot across Great Hollow Road
- Ledyard Link trailhead (opposite Grasse Road)
- Replace existing signs at Hemlock Road parking area
- Goodwin Bike Loop, both ends
- Morrison Road [editorial addition]

To reduce sign clutter at the Grasse Road trailhead, it is proposed to remove three signs, leaving only the kiosk. Removal of the town's sign should be compensated by adequate identification of the three owners on the kiosk. Mlacak suggested that a you-are-here indication on the kiosk map would help orient users and also serve the function of the existing "Grasse Road Trail" sign.

Taylor said that Local Motion (the supplier of Trail Finder) supports QR codes to download maps to smart phones, but UVTA does not yet use this feature. McIlroy noted that it would be expensive to have Rhino make a new decal for each QR code. Taylor said that UVTA has located a local supplier of custom decals.

Other business

Taylor has been told by Cathie Redpath that some work is needed north of Moose Mountain Lodge on the Logging Road and the Ridge Trail.