

MINUTES

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, July 13th 2023 at 6:45 PM

Meeting Place: Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Road, Sanbornton NH

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Ray Masse, Dick Ayers, Dave Perry, Karen Bordeau, Gail Morrison

Guest: Eric Keenan

TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING- 6:45 PM

The following discussion incorporates input gathered from the June 21st Trail Walk meeting:

a. Trail Signage – There is concern that the current blazes (colored purple and lime green) may be hard to see in low light and amongst the foliage in the fall. The possibility of switching to factory made arrows was brought up, they could be used to delineate trail directions. Changing any signage will need to be reflected across other town properties and maps, requiring effort to update. May be easier to keep blazes fresh and perhaps outline with white paint for increased visibility. Ray requested the least amount of arrows possible to reduce clutter and keep a typical hiking trail feel.

b. Trail Improvements – Priority task for committee. Areas of trails need to be cleaned up and some blowdowns across the trails will require a chainsaw or logging equipment. Viewpoint on Eastman Hill trail proposed to be cleared by John Martin (logger), and he can remove larger downed trees when he harvests the Town Forest, likely this winter.

The beginning of Taylor Road trail needs wood chips over a large wet area that is difficult to traverse. Eric offers to drop off wood chips from his business any time, as he has a surplus. He can also help cut up blowdowns.

Parking: Taylor Road trail needs better parking, even a pull-out for cars would be sufficient. A gate for the Eastman Hill trailhead is discussed. The path to the trail head crosses private property, need to ensure gate is on town property. A time frame for getting the gate is needed and was not finalized.

**Trail Maintenance Day: proposed for Sunday July 30th at 8 AM. Volunteers will meet at the trailhead behind the Steele Hill pool. Ray will send email to members and any interested parties with a reminder.*

c. Historic Markers- To increase public engagement and interest, marking some historic features along trails was recommended. Features such as cellar holes, interesting trees, wildlife info. Chair Crosby is in favor but reiterates that any signage should be consistent across town properties.

d. Miscellaneous –

-All Trails – consider uploading town trails to All Trails computer program, also NH Granit. Ray has received recent info on land trust access to All Trails so he will work on this.

-Trails committee meetings: will ultimately be up to the new members. For now, it was discussed to meet immediately prior to CC meeting.

The Trails subcommittee meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. Eric Keenan left the meeting.

REGULAR CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUSINESS- 7:30 PM

Chair Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 06/08/23 CC meeting. Dick Ayers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Dick made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 06/14/23 Introductory Trail Committee Meeting. Dave Perry seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Dick made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 06/21/23 Trail Walk. Ray Masse seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Newsletter- Dick has started some pages for the upcoming newsletter. He would like to finish in the next month. His focus is on the new trail committee and increasing interest in the trails. He is looking for other ideas if offered. It was recommended that the meeting dates and times be included in the newsletter.

b. Cash donation has been deposited into the Conservation Fund.

c. Planning Board Site Plan Input Requests- In-depth discussion regarding what is being asked in these requests, and what the CC's ultimate role and responsibilities are for reviewing site plans. It was determined that this is unclear and a meeting with the Planning Board or a representative is necessary. Karen has been to a Planning Board meeting and says it sounds like they are looking for free technical review. The town should consider hiring an environmental consultant for this purpose. The CC can provide suggestions, especially in regards to wildlife corridors/crossings, but ultimately have no say in what the project planners decide to implement. CC members briefly reviewed some pages of the plans for the Sanbornton 127 Solar and Winnisquam Boats, LLC proposals. It was decided that Chair Crosby and Karen will likely attend a Planning Board meeting to request clarification on what is being asked of the CC. Chair Crosby

will also reach out to Planning Board Assistant Steve Laurin or Planning Board Chair Andy Sanborn to discuss.

d. Town Property Boundaries Report- The final report was previously distributed to Commission members. Some Town Forest property lines are unclear, consider using Forest

Management Funds to survey and properly delineate. It was noted in the report that someone posted Town land on Rufus Colby Road near the Cemetery. Chair Crosby will go out and remove those. There has also been some encroachment noted, especially along Dr. True Road property. This should be addressed to prevent future problems.

e. Land Acquisition- The parcel previously discussed is moving forward, purchase agreement has been signed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:34 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Tedeschi