

Exeter Trails Committee

August 3, 2012

Attendees:

Steven Shope, Don Briselden, Don Clement, Pete Richardson, Ri Fahnestock, and Kristen Murphy.

General Notes:

Steve mentioned that the supplier for the “live edge” planks that has been used for many of the trail crossings has closed business so he is looking for another supplier. Ri said the UNH mill may be a resource and he could talk to them about providing supplies. It was stated that hemlock or spruce are preferable to pine. Ri also brought up the option of moving toward the boardwalk style with the board crossings. It was agreed that the decking/boardwalk design, though more labor intensive, may be a better design because it is not as slippery and tends to last longer. It was decided that the most urgent sections should be replaced with the planks but ultimately we should consider moving toward the decking/boardwalk style.

Trail Needs:

1. Town Forests:

Steve Shope presented the following:

- a. Crossing Repair #1- Oaklands, Fall 2012, \$300 in materials – The section of the trail originally constructed by Danny Houston in association with the Sloans Brook development. It requires replacing a 40-50’ section of planks on the left fork of the Oaklands trail as it heads north from the 101 tunnel.
- b. Crossing Repair #2 - Henderson-Swasey, \$250 in materials – This crossing is along the “green trail” and between the 2nd and 3rd entrance from the gasline trail. There is sort of a corduroy ½ round log 50’ crossing here and it needs complete replacement. The group thought a decking/boardwalk type plan would be best for this section. It was recommended that a site walk be planned and the project implemented with a volunteer day.
- c. Crossing Repair #3 – Henderson- Swasey, \$228 in materials (estimate from Jackson Lumber) – This is about 40’ long crossing and has a few pieces of boards in place currently. The crossing is along the “NEMBA” trail which is the right fork of the blue trail when you enter from the Commerce parking area.

Ri Fahnestock presented the following:

- d. Crossing Repair #4 – Henderson Swasey (Cost TBD) This section is on the yellow trail south of the Camel humps and also has the ½ round corduroy boards. It is currently dry but the boards are very unstable. This may be a good project for 2013
- e. Crossing Repair #5 – Henderson Swasey (No cost, just ConCom approval needed)– This is a very short but muddy section of the trail. Ri believes no materials are needed because there is enough rock in the area to build a crossing. He recognized that rocks from stone walls would be used.
- f. Ri mentioned several issues with signage and mapping on the trails:
 - i. He had reported to Kristen in June that there was a confusing section of the trail that had old blazes still visible. Ri was able to fix this section.
 - ii. Several major trails that do not show up on the maps we have. Kristen will try to work with RPC to figure out the best approach to update the data. For now we can use the modified drawings from Ri.
 - iii. There was a new trail complete with signage (beaver loop) in the western portion of Oaklands. They start from the “pig farm” section of the trail and head south, circle a beaver pond and return.
 - iv. The trail junction markers # 6 and #2 at Henderson Swasey do not match the location indicated on the maps.

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2. Other Projects

- a. Steve Shope reported that the re-orienting of the internal signs has been completed so they now all face “north”. The only exception is the Oaklands kiosk but that will require heavy equipment.
- b. Don B. mentioned a need to coordinate a meeting with the Exeter Fire Department so they are familiar with the trail access points.
- c. Kristen reported that she is working on plans to install weed cloth and mulch at the Wiggin gravesite at Raynes to improve access and reduce the weed issue there. Don B. also suggested that we should consider establishing a trail to the gravesite through the crop so that people don't damage the crop.
- d. Kristen also reported on a need for sign maintenance/replacement for Smith Page, Irvine, Willy White, and re-shingling of the kiosks.
- e. The committee was informed about the Morrissette property and it was suggested that a Court Street connection be a part of the trail plans for this site.
- f. The trail head marker is still present at the top of the holding pond. Kristen and Steve had talked to Mr. Hayes 2 years ago and he did not want trail users to cross his property anymore. It was decided that the trailhead marker should be pulled.
- g. Pete mentioned Russ Kaphan's desire to consider trail connectivity throughout town and suggested a focus group be established to look into that.
- h. Ri mentioned that it would be very beneficial to have an up to date list of trail projects that included with the level of approval needed. He said if he knew projects or at least an indication of what level of review the project needed/had then he could be more proactive in assisting in the completion of projects.

Kristen agreed to present the list of trail needs at the Conservation Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Murphy
Natural Resource Planner