

**Exeter Trails Committee**

**February 11, 2013**

**Attendees:**

Jason Gregoire (Chair), Steven Shope, Don Briselden, Russell Kaphan, Pete Richardson, Bob Kelly, Deb Humiston, and Kristen Murphy.

**Discussion:**

**1. Trail Projects for 2013:**

Kristen handed out a table with outstanding projects have been identified for the various properties since the development of the trail plan. The projects were organized by level of review the projects have received. The Committee reviewed this list. Steve Shope identified the following projects to pass on to the Conservation Commission for 2013 recommended purchases/repairs:

- a) Oaklands – a simple plank crossing on the “BLT trail” is in need of replacement. Estimated cost to replace it for materials only **\$50**
- b) Oaklands – crossing structure on the “Hot Dog” trail is in need of replacement. The structure on the “hot dog trail” can be found after you summit at Hamburger Hill, bear right go over the crossing that was replaced during the Timberland work day, structure is at the bottom of the hill. Estimated cost to repair/replace is **\$300**

**2. Volunteer Support:**

- a. The group discussed the need to establish “call for volunteers” announcements for trail clean ups where groups disperse across smaller parts of the trail network and do minor clean up/brush trimming, downed branch removal periodically. This could also target specific user groups for the creation of regional stewardship groups (home owners associations, Industrial Drive business owners, etc) responsible for regular maintenance of smaller sections of trails.
- b. It was also suggested that there be an announcement on various venues (website, Ch. 22, etc) “if you are interested in volunteering contact Kristen...”

3. **Private Land Owner Acknowledgement:** It was suggested that a formal thank you be sent out to those private land owners who allow trail passage through their property.
4. **Interns for Trail Improvements:** Bob Kelly suggested the group consider the use of a summer intern to complete the list of trail projects that are ready to go. The group thought it would be a good idea and that there was enough work to keep a part time intern busy. Kristen expressed concerns over the workload associated with planning the projects and overseeing the interns. Steve Shope and Bob Kelly said they would be willing to do that. The discussion will be brought forward to the Conservation Commission.
5. **Emergency Repair Process:** The group decided there would be a benefit to have an “emergency repair process”. This would assist in situations where a repair is needed to an existing structure that is posing a danger and in need of repair before a Conservation Commission meeting can be scheduled. It was recommended to request **\$300** to fund emergency repairs. Prior to initiating use of the funds, the project leader will contact Jay Gregoire to obtain approval.
6. **Fire/Rescue/Dispatch Outreach:** Don B. recommended that we contact the dispatch and go over best access options for the different trail regions. Kristen did say that they have been provided laminated large scale maps of all trail regions that are in each rescue vehicle for reference but since many trails have multiple points of access beyond just the trail heads a meeting will be helpful.
7. **Unauthorized Trail Features:** Russ expressed concern over the appearance of several bike trick features that are being constructed and utilized on the trail system. This use is causing the trails to widen and need to follow the appropriate approval process.

It was discussed the next meeting will be in April at a date to be determined. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner