

Friends of North Andover Trails
Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2016

Agenda: Attached. Stan Limpert took action items, also attached.

Attendance: 12 members attended.

Membership & Fundraising: 78 members, with no significant year on year member losses. Glen Aspeslagh sends out a renewal reminder approximately twice per year and will send the next one out in the spring. The trail guide continues to be a “best seller”; more guidebooks have been ordered. Deb Monte has submitted a large number of new photographs that could be used in the 2nd edition. If anyone wants to get involved with the 2nd Edition planning, contact Glen.

Treasury Report: As of 2015 year-end, the balance was \$11,764. As of today, it is closer to \$13,000. In 2015, there were donations of ~\$1200, a grant of \$1500, dues of ~ \$500 and impressively, ~ \$8200 from sales of the trail guide. Apart from the guidebook printing, there were very few expenses in 2015. A detailed report was made available at the meeting.

Kiosk Update: Jim Petty fabricated a replacement roof for the Windrush Farm kiosk. It will be mounted on the existing frame as soon as weather permits. Four volunteers are needed. The conservation agent had asked for help in January in finding pre-made kiosks for the town. Current status is that they think they have two remaining kiosks (from the 10 previously ordered) and that will be sufficient to replace the missing kiosk on Bradford Street. We discussed standardizing the kiosk design; all thought a good idea, at least for new kiosks. Liz Armstrong will forward the kiosk design information given to the conservation agent to Stan Limpert and he will be the lead contact with Scouts/Eagle projects.

Shawsheen River Trail Update: Walter Soule re-confirmed that there is a “Right of Way” off Green Street all the way to the Shawsheen River. The deed is available from Walter. The ROW is in need of clearing and trail maintenance. The kiosk is missing and should be replaced. Stan Limpert thought this would be a good Eagle Scout project. There is no off-street parking, but parking along Green Street is not prohibited (except in a small area that is signed). Nothing in the deed indicates that the apartment complex needs to either maintain parking spaces for the trail or provide and maintain a kiosk.

Reports from the Trails: There is a tree down in the Farnsworth property trail; Rob Jones will remove it before the March walk. No other trail reports, but there is likely damage from the recent storms.

Upcoming Events: The February monthly hike was postponed till the 21st because of the severe cold weather. March hike is on schedule. The 2016 walk schedule is on the website calendar. Rob Jones asked if the spreadsheet with the dates, hikes, leaders and co-leaders could be circulated. Liz Armstrong will email it to the leaders/co-leaders. BTA-BOLT is having a “full moon” hike” at Windrush Farm on February 21st with some warm refreshments.

Trail Adopter Program: Rob Jones circulated the revised outline for the trail monitor program. Walter Soule thought it was excellent but maybe too ambitious for the first step. We will drop the “optional responsibilities” from the list and confine the responsibilities to walking the trail twice per year, removing trash, removing small limbs and other light debris from the trail and reporting on any trail areas that need maintenance. Reporting will be done either via email or through a link on our website. This program is confined to the trails list in the guide and the Bay Circuit Trail. Rob has prepared a spreadsheet outlining the trails that will be used to track who is assigned to what trail. He suggested that Mike Agosti and Jeff Hixon decide which areas they will cover in Boxford State Forest as there is some overlap. Liz Armstrong and Tom Powers will split the Bay Circuit Trail south of Sharpner’s Pond Road to Andover. We also discussed some ways that we might get this to a broader audience besides discussing at the monthly walks and a general email list (e.g., church bulletins, town TV station, Monday notes from schools).

Leadership Training: While not on the agenda, Liz Armstrong gave an update on training possibilities for anyone wanting to help lead walks. The AMC will have a day program in early May that will be open to FONAT. There is a modest fee to attend. Liz will confirm the date once it is posted. (Separately Stan Limpert asked if it was possible for a semi-professional to videotape the training program. Liz will ask the AMC.) Separately, Greenbelt is also trying to find a suitable training program for their GOAT leaders, which will be open to FONAT. Between these 2 possibilities, we should be able to cover anyone interested in this training.

Open Space Preservation: While not on the agenda, Stan Limpert discussed two properties available for acquisition. The first was through Greenbelt – Leonard’s Farm – on Dale Street (at the intersection of Glendale Street). It is a large property located in both North Andover and Boxford. Liz Armstrong reported that according to Greenbelt, the town will support the purchase of a “conservation restriction” for the Leonard’s Farm as will the town of Boxford. A trail network with parking on Bruin Hill Road is planned for the property. A longer discussion was held about the Manzi property – an open field (near Mosquito Brook) off Foster Street, adjacent to Greenbelt’s Farnsworth property. The town did not agree to purchase this property; it was thought too high an asking price, maybe well above market value. It was suggested that Greenbelt should pursue the purchase of these 9 acres. Greenbelt looks to purchase property at sub-market price for open space. Liz Armstrong will take this opportunity to Greenbelt’s staff this week.

2016 Goals and Plans: Glen provided a handout on the various activities that FONAT does in anticipation of this discussion. This topic will be carried over until the next meeting.

Friends of North Andover Trails

(FONAT)

Meeting Action Items

February 17, 2016

No	Name	Task	Due	Done
1	Glen	Send out membership renewal e-mails	[TBD]	
2	Stan	See if Scouts would build Shawsheen kiosk		
3	Rob (?)	Cut tree at Farnsworth		
4	Liz	Contact Greenbelt: widen Farnsworth boardwalk		
5	Glen	Advocate for "Manzi" property purchase		
6	Liz	Finalize AMC local guide training		
7	Glen/Liz	Send out trail walks guide list		
8	Glen (?)	Id. other publicity outlets: churches; PTOs; TV		
9	Walt	Id. any mapped trails on private property		
10	Glen	Add trails adoption pgm to guide and kiosks		
11	Karen	Invite town mgr to FONAT mtg		

Friends of North Andover Trails

Monthly Meeting Agenda

February 17, 2016

Updates

Membership & Fundraising (Glen)

- 78 members, 1 signup
- Ordered more guide books

Treasury Report (Steve)

Kiosk Update (Jim)

Shawsheen River Trail Update

Reports From The Trails

New Business/Discussion

Upcoming Events

- Feb and March Hikes (and full schedule)
- BTA/BOLT Full Moon Hike at Windrush, Feb 21

Discussion / Ongoing Projects

- Trail Adopter Program (Rob, Liz)
- 2016 Goals and Plans!

Next Meeting: March 16th