

## **Friends of North Andover Trails Meeting, 1/20/16**

**Present:** Glen Aspeslagh, Jim Petty, Mike Agosti, Stan Limpert, Tom Powers, Rob Jones, Deb Monte, Walter Soule, Phila Slade, Liz Armstrong, Brian Christiansen, Karen Kline, Helena Minton, Jeff Hixon

**Membership:** FONAT now has 84 members. Goal is 100.

**Trail Guide:** There are about 100 guides left and Glen is looking into a second printing. Deb said she has some new photographs. There will be adjustments to some maps; Brightview Trail map may become a fold-out or two pages.

Whole Foods might be a place for the guides. Deb sent out thank you holiday cards to the places that carry the guide. She had them printed at Staples; was not pleased with the quality.

**Treasurers Report:** Steve was not present. No report given.

**Bay Circuit Trail** dues from FONAT - \$50.00. **Voted to approve.**

### **Report from Trails-**

**James Swamp** – Tom repaired four rotted boards and a ramp in one of the bridges. Liz is concerned about the pitch of some of the ramps. It was suggested that there be a boardwalk construction review process. Tom said you could put in longer ramps. This would be a good Eagle Scout project.

**Boxford State Forest** – Jeff Hixon reported that the Mill River Crossing/bridge is complete and now easy to cross. This is in Georgetown Rowley State Forest on Rowley side. It's a farmer's bridge crossing the highway. BTA now marked. Ipswich line through North Andover. Region 2 of Bay Circuit Trail- 20% is replaced for signs. Now the white blazes should come down. A lot of organizations use white blazes and it is confusing. Liz gives out Bay Circuit signs. Georgetown is sparingly marked. The Ward Reservation is also confusing.

It was noted that in Boxford State Forest someone has put up "You Are Here" signs, nailed to trees. They are starting to weather. Not professionally done.

## **FONAT Meeting Minute 1/20/16, P. 2**

**Bay Circuit Trail** – Liz recently walked from Ipswich to Andover. North Andover spots need better blazing. Blazes should be staged. BCT is not a loop. Not all trails are loops. BCT uses plastic markers; North Andover metal discs. Deb asked how the end of a trail is marked. Most trails end at a road, so not marked. Someone suggested using a color to mark the end. Brian said color is confusing because it means different things to different people. Can't assuming red would mean the "end" for every hiker.

**Rockwell** property, near Edgewood. In talks with Edgewood which wants land to build Alzheimer's Unit. There may be land for a north-south trail; 10 parking spaces for trail access. Would be able to extend the Stevens to Stevens Trail.

### **Events:**

**Weir Hill** – December, 13 – A good walk. Good group.

**James Swamp** – January, 17, a good turn-out.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**January 31** – Middleton Stream Team Winter Walk; Family Fun Day Ward Reservation- sled and food. Looking for volunteers.

**National Trails Day** June 4-Trustees of Reservations leading Stevens to Stevens walk; asked FONAT to co-sponsor. New policy- Trustees now charge \$5.00 for members; \$10.00 for non-members. Glen asked if FONAT wants to participate. Agreed we did not want to charge, so will not participate. Greenbelt doesn't charge.

Liz was going to put together a list of hikes for 2016, with leaders.

### **Discussion:**

**Kiosks** – **Green Street Kiosk** is gone. DPW director said he knows nothing about it. Town has no plans to replace kiosk because it was put there by the developer. Mazurenko Kiosk – DPW will replace. Conservation Commission asked where to get new kiosks, different than the current ones. They paid \$40,000 for 10 kiosks, metal and one is gone. AMC has kiosk guidelines, with plans- DIY – uses lucite. It was suggested that there be a competition for a new kiosk on Green Street. Glen and Walter will meet about this.

**FONAT Meeting Minutes, 1/20/16, P. 3**

**Maplewood Trail** – Glen and Helena will meet with interested Oakridge Village/Maplewood Reserve residents on January 27 to discuss possible trail. There is a core group of about 20 residents.

**Lost 50** – Liz has completed grant proposal and is waiting for DCR approval. There are many organizations/groups involved with this project and all need to sign off on it.

**Trail Adopter Program:** Rob is putting together guidelines for trail adoption. Walk trail twice a year, note any problems, pick up trash, etc. FONAT is looking for volunteers.

**Leadership Program:** Mike proposed a workshop to help with leadership skills. The AMC offers workshops about leading local walks. Green belt also offers GOAT (Greenbelt Outings and Adventure Training) training.

Glen also mentioned the **Keystone Project** (<http://masskeystone.net/keystone-training>). This is a three-day training in forest ecology and management, wildlife management and land conservation, run by Univ. of Massachusetts Extension in Petersham. Glen has been through the training and found it very helpful.

**Next Meeting: February 27th**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Helena Minton

**2/1/16**