

FONAT MEETING 3/16/16

Present: Glen, Phila, Karen, Al, Liz, Scott, Darlene, Mike, Rob, Deb, Stan, Tom, Jim, John, Steve, Helena, Jeff

Membership: FONAT has one new member. We continue to have a significant number of non-members (many repeaters) on the monthly walks and we should begin again the “join FONAT” message.

Fundraising: Glen received the order for 1,000 new guidebooks. Sales reps should check with their stores to see when they need new copies.

Stan said three stores have been added: Rolling Ridge Conference Center; a bicycle store and Dawson’s, both in Topsfield. There are now twenty locations selling the guidebooks.

Treasurer’s Report: Approximately \$13,000 balance. \$1,724 was received in January-February for the trail guide.

Kiosk Updates: Kiosk building is a good project for an Eagle Scout. Scouts raise their own funds for the materials. One scout donated the remainder of his funds to FONAT, last year. DPW has now replaced the Mazurenko kiosk and added a roof to the Windrush Farm kiosk. They plan to replace the Green St kiosk, using the roof Jim has now constructed. FONAT agreed to donate minor funds to support Eagle Scout trail projects, if requested.

Trails Update:

Trail Monitors have begun to email Rob about issues with trails. Rob and Liz are working on a Trail Monitoring Report Form, based on AMC’s draft form. Quite a few people have signed up to be monitors. Still need help with Mazurenko and Osgood Hill and Carter. Having new people going out on trails provides a good “test” of the trail maps.

According to Jennifer Hughes, Steve Foster is interested in taking on bridge project at Mazurenko. Glen will follow up. There needs to be a more substantial bridge over the wetlands.

Tom is working on a schedule for trail maintenance. It will be the first Saturday of each month. April 2nd- James Swamp – bridge area around soccer field is overgrown and needs cutting back.

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Cyr Recycling – New monitor had trouble finding/following trails using the map in the trail guide. Confusion about the trail needs to be cleared up. Berry Street parking lot was closed.

G.O.A.T. (Greenbelt Outings and Adventure Training) Training – A half-day training for those interested in leading hikes, with Essex County Greenbelt, Sat. April 9. FONAT members are invited, Saturday, April 9 at Allyn Cox Reservation, 82 Eastern Avenue, in Essex. The AMC will offer a 1-day course for people interested in leading local walks in May. Details will be issued as soon as they are available.

Hikes:

Sunday, April 10, Salem Pond Loop in Harold Parker. Liz will lead, with Helena as co-leader

Meeting with North Andover Town Manager:

Karen Kline has arranged for North Andover Town Manager to meet with members of FONAT and the North Andover Improvement Society Tuesday, May 17, at 5-6:30PM at Edgewood. This is a chance for FONAT members to ask questions and get to know the town manager. Karen suggests we begin at 5PM with a walk along Nan's trail, before convening in the auditorium.

Jack Holt and Birds: Karen said North Andover Cable filmed a conversation with Jack Holt and Mike Goriensky about raptors and bird banding. It needs to be edited, but it will soon be shown on the station.

2016 GOALS

Rockwell Property: Al French urged FONAT was urged to be vigilant about the acquisition of the Rockwell property by Edgewood. Permitting time is the moment to make ensure positive public access, including parking. There should be a "management plan."

Farnsworth Bog Bridge: Given an action item from the February FONAT meeting, Liz discussed the Farnsworth bog bridge with Dave Rimmer/Greenbelt and at this time, he is not interested in widening the current bog bridge.

Tri-Town Connector – Al French has been working on a project that would create a connecting trail between Andover, North Andover and Lawrence in Den Rock Park. The goal would be a crossing on Route 114 near DeMoulas. He has asked FONAT to send a letter of support for this project. The group agreed FONAT should send letter. Stan suggested we see a copy of the letter, with a map. Al will send Glen a copy of the letter, with a map.

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Multi-Use Trail: The proposed trail extends from East Mill to Weir Hill. Funds were obtained for the design. Now the town needs to spend the funds to have the design created.

Directional Signs Sub-Committee will meet soon to clarify design and let the high school know before school ends so the students can create the signs.

FONAT Brochures: There is a need for a volunteer to distribute, and replenish, brochures at various locations in town, such as the library and Town Hall. Darlene offered to oversee this task.

New Trails:

Woodchuck Hill – Rob will spearhead this project to add a trail at Foxwood.

Maplewood – The easement provides for access on foot and bicycle. Glen learned recently at a meeting with Tom Walsh and Steve David, of the DCR, the lack of public parking makes it a private trail and that could be a problem in the formal approval process.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, ~~April 20~~, 6PM **EDIT: Meeting will be April 27th**

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena Minton
3/22/16