

Friends of North Andover Trails

Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2017

Present: Glen, Rob, Jim, Brian, Tom, Stan, Joe, Jeanne, Mike, Liz, Helena, Steve D.(12)

Membership – There were no new members this month.

Glen will be sending out membership renewal letters soon.

Finances – Steve said FONAT has \$16,372 in the bank.

(Attached: profit and loss statement for Jan.-Jul. 2017.)

Trail Guides – We have ~300 guides remaining from our second printing.

Reports from Trails:

- *Trail Clearing* – Peter cleared downed trees and limbs from the trails in the Cyr Recycling Center area.
- *Work Day Results* – On August 5th, Tom and Glen did mowing and lopping on various trails at Mazurenko Farms. They accomplished a lot for a skeleton crew.
- *Next Work Day* – Sept. 9th, Shawsheen River trail clean-up.

Events:

- *National Night Out* – On Aug. 1st Glen and six members participated in National Night Out at the Middle School. They gave out balloons and stickers, and got a number of sign-ups for the e-mail list.
- *Farmers' Market* – On August 6th, Glen and other volunteers helped with set-up and tear-down for the North Andover Farmers Market in downtown, in exchange for a free booth space. The group sold slush and guides, and made several hundred dollars in profit. It was agreed that this might be a once-a-summer activity, but not every Sunday.

Reports on Projects:

- *BCT Boardwalk* – Two weeks of intense work was done on Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) boardwalk re-route. Members of the SCA were key to the project. FONAT members helped with material staging. Tasks remaining: hand rails; toe rails; info. signs; info. sign stands. Liz Armstrong presented alternatives (attachments 2 & 3) for hand rails and toe rails. A potluck dinner was held for the SCA crew on July 31st at Liz's house.
- *Trail Signs* – No progress has been made yet with this project. There should be renewed activity when the schools open again.
- *Smolak Farms Nature Walks* – Mike Smolak is still looking for help with trails on his farm. Mike says he can get help from the North Andover High School cross country team, who would like to use the trails for practice. These trails would still be open to the public.
- *Lake Trail* – An RDA is still needed to get this project started. Funding is available.

Hike Report – Liz, Bob, and Helena led a hike on August 13th in Harold Parker State Forest for 24 attendees, most of whom were not North Andover residents. The hike lasted 2 hours and included stops at the stone quarry and saw mill.

September Hike – Saturday, September 16th, Stevens to Stevens II. This hike follows North Andover's lake trail, from Stevens Pond to the Stevens Estate along Lake Cochicewick, through Weir Hill to Osgood Hill.

Upcoming events:

- **Fall Festival** – Saturday, September 23rd, 10am to 4pm, Town Common. FONAT will again have a table at this event, and needs volunteers to hand out information throughout the day.
- **Leonhard Farm Trail Opening** – Sunday, September 24th, 1:00-3:00, Bruin Hill Road. As a **Trails & Sails** event, this is the opening of the trail on the newly accessible Leonhard Farm.

Handouts:

- Jan.-Jul. 2017 financial summary.
- Boardwalk handrail and toe rail information (2 sheets).

Next FONAT meeting will be *September 20th at 6PM* at 1 Johnson Street
(The Brick Store at the rotary.)

Prepared by: Stan Limpert

Farnum Boardwalk Project

Remaining Boardwalk Tasks:

1. Finish off the edges (assigned);
2. Add the toe edge;
3. Decide/Add safety “stop alert” at boardwalk turn;
4. Construct the information stands (Glen/Rob);
5. Compose the “placards” (Deb/Liz and ?);
6. Decide on the railing, yes/no, and if yes, type.

Trail Requirements:

1. Complete brushing out; some re-routes may be needed.

Remaining Grant Money Should Cover:

1. Toe Edge;
2. Information Stands and “Placards”;
3. Safety “stop alerts” at the turn (additional post, cross boards/ropes, sign).

Consensus for Railing – Options/Costs:

1. Cut the remaining posts to standard height (now marked at 3-ft) and leave as is;
2. String 2 levels of rope through existing posts with tightening brackets (\$400);
3. Do (2) and add a stabilizing flat top railing (\$450; \$850 total);
4. Do (2) and (3) and add a mid-post with support brackets (\$800; \$1,650 total);
5. Eliminate ropes and use one connecting board (\$450);
6. Traditional PT wood railing, 4-in spacing, with no mid posts (\$2,000).

Options for a Toe Rail

1. Board against the side of the joists/boardwalk (Mary French Reservation boardwalk).
2. Board flat against the decking (HPSF – Stone Dust Trail major crossings)
3. Board elevated off the top of the decking (GRSF – Mill River crossing)

My preference is (3) because it solves a safety problem and looks great for smaller width boardwalks.

In the Mill River boardwalk – they used a 1.5 – in width x 1 3/8 – in height x 16-ft held off the deck by plastic spacers – every 4 ft; carriage bolts through the board – through the spacers and secured under the decking. They were able to curve it – where needed; where it met – they used angles – instead of butt joints.