

Friends of North Andover Trails Meeting Minutes June 21, 2017

Present: Glen, Tom, Brian, Deb, Liz, Jim, Rob, Dale, Stan, Helena, Jean, Joe

Start Time: 6:05pm

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Steve, was not there. Glen reported no real changes in accounts.

Trail Monitor Reports: Two reports from James Swamp. One large dead branch down across Loop Trail.

Trail Work:

Leonhard Farm: FONAT volunteers worked with Essex County Greenbelt, a good crew, coming from several nearby towns, including Saugus and Wilmington. It is hoped that the spur trail can be ready for the September hike. Liz said that North Andover did well to support the Greenbelt conservation restriction for this property.

Wilmot Boardwalk: This project is being led by Mike, who thanks Steve, Tom, Rob, Jim, Al French and members of Middleton Stream Team for their help. The boardwalk was assembled in Mike's basement and brought into the forest by tractor. It came out very nicely. The boardwalk was installed by 12:30. Liz said swamp pans from Wisconsin were used under the boards. Pictures are on Facebook and pictures were also sent to grant agency. There is a lot of water in the Lot 50, described as "mini-lakes." DCR said they would take care of the issue, but they not yet done so. It was suggested that another grant be applied for to address the problem.

Events:

Sheep Shearing: Plenty of volunteers. Sold 12 guides. One new membership.

June 4th Hike to Salem Pond: Joe led, Jean was sweep, Liz and Helena were supporters. Hike went well; walked clockwise, rather than counter-clockwise around the pond. Wet areas were passable. FONAT now has two official first aid kits.

Field Trip, June 23, Third graders from the Atkinson School. Glen led students on a nature walk up to Osgood Hill. About 70 students; one group of about 25; the second hike was two combined groups. Smaller group was better. Students were thrilled. They also had a tour of the Stevens House. Glen hopes FONAT can lead more of these walks.

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Ongoing Projects:

SCA Boardwalk on Farnum property being built between July 24 and 31 by Americorp volunteers. There is a lot of water along the trail now. The possibility of paying someone to install beaver deceivers was discussed. As part of the terms of the grant for the boardwalk, there will also be a kiosk with educational information about beavers, etc..

Stevens to Stevens II: \$12,000 in CPA funds are available as of July 1st. Boardwalk will run along the lake. 8-foot, rough cut hemlock planks in two sections.

Boxford State Forest: Mike will write RDA for a second boardwalk further in. Temporary planks can be put down in the interim.

Signs: People at the meeting liked the two sample signs, preferred the one without the beveled edge. No new communication with high school at the moment. This will wait until September.

New Business:

Stewardship Council Meeting: Liz attended a meeting of the DCR's Stewardship Council in Lawrence on June 15. The Council meets monthly at different locations around the state. Sometimes the Commissioner, Leo Roy, attends, although he wasn't at this recent meeting. Liz said it is worth attending from time to time, especially if meeting is nearby:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/inside-our-agency/stewardship-council/>

Trail Work:

Mazurenko 7/8 – trail work. Tom will bring mower and loppers.

July Hike, 7/16 Woodchuck Hill – New trail. Glen leads. Parking along Foxwood Drive.

SCA – Project starts Monday, July 24th

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19th, 6PM at 1 Johnson Street (The Brickstore on the rotary.)

Adjourned: 7:05PM

Submitted by Helena Minton