

Friends of North Andover Trails

Meeting Minutes – 17 May 2017

6.05 PM – 7.15 PM

Attendance: 8 people participating

Membership: One (1) new member, on-line from Methuen. Most on-line new members are coming from neighboring towns, not just North Andover.

Treasury Report: Healthy bank balance, ~ \$16,135. Trail Guide sales continue to provide most of the YTD revenue (\$1,472) with dues/donations of \$390. Expenses for banking fees and a boardwalk project total ~ \$600.

Reports from the Trails and Status of Trail Projects:

- **Bruin Hill:** Only one (1) formal trail report received, for Bruin Hill. Some downed trees and wet areas in the lower portion; the upper portions of the trail are in good shape.
- **Boston Hill:** Glen reported on the planned burn of Boston Hill/Ward Reservation to maintain the open meadows; had some dramatic photos to share.
- **Edgewater Bog Bridge:** CPA funds were approved at the town meeting for a new boardwalk on the Edgewater property. The design will be similar to that already in place on adjacent Weir Hill, using much heavier planks than typical.
- **Farnum Boardwalk:** The RDA was approved in the 10 May conservation commission meeting. The AMC has applied for a grant for \$8k to cover the materials' costs for this project (200+ foot elevated boardwalk plus information kiosk).
- **Signs:** The NAHS has the material and a test sign is being prepared. We still need a more complete list of signs/specific design details from Boxford (Jeff) and for the BCT (Liz).

Event Re-Cap:

- **Work Day** at Carter Hill was successful, building a 148-ft bog bridge. The supplies were brought up the day before via ATV/4-wheel drive vehicles. Construction was quick (~ 1hr).
- **Monthly Hike** was reasonably well attended ~ 25 people (Glen leading). Still getting first time people – always a good sign. Cookies and juice at the top of Osgood Hill appreciated.
- **Smolak Farms:** Mike Smolak led a group from Meeting House community and FONAT on a walk to envision a new trail on his farm property. Excellent views on hilltop. Adjacent to other town trails and Greenbelt's Bruin Hill. Has potential for an interesting network of trails. Smolak Farms to finance improvement costs (?). Some question of Meeting House community acceptance.

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Meeting Minutes – 17 May 2017 (cont.)

Upcoming Events, Volunteer Opportunities;

- **Sheep Shearing (21 May):** All hours covered with volunteers. Others are always welcome.
- **Shawsheen River Clean-Up (31 May):** Not really open to FONAT volunteers, mostly a student project.
- **Greenbelt/FONAT Workday (3 June):** Volunteers are needed to complete the new trail on the **Leonhard Farm**. The trail has been defined but more brushing out is needed.
- **Rolling Ridge Clean-Up (3 June):** Boy Scout troop is organizing a clean-up at this facility; 660 Great Pond Road. Volunteers are needed.
- **June Hike to Salem Pond/HPSF:** New leader/co-leader, Joe/Jeanne will join Liz/Helena on this hike. A practice walk was completed. Roles/responsibilities for leaders/co-leaders was reviewed. One of the longer walks – 2.5 hrs. Some wet areas, but all passable. We will end with cookies at Barry Pond overlook.
- **Atkinson Field Trip 13 June):** Glen is leading a trail walk for 3rd graders; volunteers would be appreciated.

Any Other Business

- **Windrush Farms:** Jeff met the new director, Janet Nittman. Still open to creating a loop trail. Significant project with long boardwalks needed. Not necessary to be horse-friendly to simplify boardwalk construction/lower costs. Wind Rush might maintain mow open parts of the trail. Potential to connect into Boxford State Forest trails. Could consider applying for CPA funds in 2018. Definitely an interesting project.
- **“School House”:** An appeal to restore ~ 200 year old school house at 815 Johnson Street. Not certain boardwalk construction translates into building restoration. First step? Who owns the structure?
- **First Aid Kits:** We agreed to purchase 2 REI first aid kits for use on the monthly walks.
- **More Leaders:** Add Keith Saxon and Jeff King to the roster of potential leaders.