

# Friends of North Andover Trails

## Meeting Minutes - 15 November, 2017

6:05 pm – 7:15 pm

**Attendance:** 14 people participating (Glen, Al, Jim, Liz, Joe, Jeanne, Rob, Stan, Helena, Tom, Pete, Mike, Steve, Karen).

**Membership:** Three new members; one signed up after the November hike.

**Treasury Report:** Steve reported a bank balance of \$17,700. The year-to-date cash flow statement shows a Net income of \$2,845.09.

**Reports from the Trails:** We received very timely updates from Jim and Steve about trees down on the Mazurenko Farm trail, which allowed us to clear the trail in time for the November hike.

At Osgood Hill, Kirk reports that there is a large tree is down and it needs to be cleared.

At the Farnsworth property, Chip reports that several trees are down. Rob will assess the damage.

At Town Farm, Woodchuck Hill, and Half Mile Hill, Pete Hall reports that there are trees down.

At Edgewood, there are also trees down. Glen will E-mail Bob Coppola (the property manager) and the Edgewood staff will take care of it.

There was a brief discussion that FONAT should plan an activity for Arbor Day in 2018.

**Sign Project:** Stan reports that progress with making signs at North Andover High School is on "Hold" for various reasons. He suggests two alternatives: (1) Contact PrideCraft sign shop in No. Andover to see if they would donate the signs or offer a discount, and (2) Purchase a C & C router which can be programmed to cut sign material. Prices start at about \$1,000. The group liked this idea, especially since it might be possible to secure a grant of up to \$1,500 from the Essex Heritage Foundation, according to Liz. Liz will check on grant submission deadlines.

### **Event Recap:**

- **Mazurenko Hike:** The weather was great, and about 38 people participated. Several families with young children attended, including one family with a 3-wheel stroller. Glen provided his usual very interesting commentary. 3 guidebooks were sold and one new member added. This hike is best done in the Fall when it is not so muddy.

### **Updates on Ongoing Projects:**

- **Cyr Recycling Center Boardwalk:** Mike has acquired the 12-foot toe-edge boards (donated by Jackson Lumber). An installation date has yet to be determined. Liz proposed to have Deb supply photos for an educational sign to be located near the Berry St. parking lot. The signs used at the Ward Reservation could serve as a prototype.

- **Lake Trail (Stevens-to-Stevens Extension) Boardwalk at Edgewood:** The trail was walked with Bob Coppola of Edgewood. It was agreed that bog bridging (thick planks) could be used for six

spots totaling about 300 feet of trail. The Town will pay for the planks. Jennifer of the Conservation Commission will walk the trail with Liz prior to beginning this project in the Spring.

**- Friends of Harold Parker "NA33 - NA32" Boardwalk Project:** Rob is looking for Home Depot to donate about \$600 for the lumber, or FONAT could pay for this. This 40-foot boardwalk project is planned for next Spring. Mike suggests that we try to use No. Andover High School sports team labor to haul the wood to the site. Everyone thought this is a great idea. Pete knows several coaches at NAHS and can check with them about this possibility.

### **New Business / Discussion:**

**- Tri-Town Trail Assessment / Improvement:** Al pointed out that he had brought up this topic several times in the past with no action being taken. There are 2 sections to this trail along the Shawsheen River in North Andover that can be developed or improved. It was agreed that a walk of the trail site by several FONAT members is needed. Al will come up with a weekend date to schedule this walk and let Glen know.

**- Owl Prowl:** Stevens-Coolidge needs a night hike leader with some knowledge of owls who would be willing to lead an evening "Owl Prowl hike. Let Glen know if you know someone who would be willing to do it.

**- French Farm neighbor E-mail:** Glen received an irate E-mail from an abutter who saw hunters park at the cul-de-sac and said that FONAT is "endangering lives: by permitting parking for hunters in the area". Glen responded by citing the many restrictions on hunting designed to ensure the safety of residents.

**- Cell tower issue:** A meeting was held to discuss the proposed 115-foot cell tower that is planned for the residential area across from Foster Farm. Rob reported that the tower would be very visible from the Foster Farm trails, and several people were voicing their opposition at the meeting. There is a petition being circulated to stop the tower. Contact Megan Auman, a resident at 242 Foster Street, if you wish to sign the petition.

**- 2018 Hike Schedule:** Liz said there have only been a few volunteers so far to lead next year's hikes. PLEASE CONTACT HER TO SIGN UP AS A LEADER.

**Available dates** (all on the second Sunday of the month): Jan., Feb., March, May, Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.

**Hike routes that have been taken already:** Boston Hill, Salem Pond in Harold Parker S.F., Woodchuck Hill, Bay Circuit Trail, Stevens-to-Stevens.

### **- Upcoming Dates:**

- **December 8<sup>th</sup> (Friday)** - Holiday Pot Luck Dinner at Glen's house (time TBD)
- **December 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** - Hike at the Cyr Recycling Center

**- Next Meeting:** SKIP DECEMBER, next one will be Wed. January 17<sup>th</sup> 2018