

Friends of North Andover Trails, Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Present: Glen, Stan, Liz, Shelley, Rob, Deb, Mike, Helena, Tom

Treasurer: No report, as Steve was absent.

Memberships: 1 new, 1 renewal – with company form for matching funds

Guidebook: Sales are starting to pick up for Fall.

Trail Reports:

Woodchuck and Osgood Hill – Pete Hall cleared brush and fallen branches

James Swamp – Shelley reported that trails are in good shape. She used loppers to clear brush, and will go back and clear more, including the overgrown vines on kiosk. She said that some of the boardwalks need to be repaired and others agreed.

Foster Farm Trail: Jennifer Hughes said someone has mowed a path on private property on Boxford Street side.

Shawsheen Work Day – Eight people, including a scout and his mother, helped clear trail.

Bay Circuit Re-Route is dry at Liberty Street. It's now mud, not standing water.

Osgood Trail Entrance – Tom cleared this. It was quite overgrown.

Hikes:

Trails & Sails

9/16/17- Glen, Liz and Keith led, eighteen people, fast walkers. 2 hours and 20 minutes, group stayed together. Saturday walk has a different feel than Sunday, for instance, no children on this hike. Parking lot was already full when they arrived, some needed to park on street.

Projects: New and Ongoing

Lost 50 – It's possible to re-submit a proposal.

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Farnum The new boardwalk needs a toe edge. There will be no railing, but there will be a board placed at the 90 degree turn. The design/content for the signs will be created by Liz and Deb, using Deb's photographs. Signs will be a basic structure with two posts.

Smolak Farm Trail – Farm is busy now. Tom will contact Mike Smolak about clearing trail, later in the Fall, when there is less foliage.

Lake Trail Boardwalk. It has been re-measured, and a materials list has been drawn up to prepare for the RDA. Rob will help with GPS coordinates. Glen will put together a map.

Mills to Hills – Town Planner is in charge and has learned that proposed trail needs to be re-routed. The trail cannot go through the lower half of the field; these are protected wetlands, as per Trustees, with several endangered grasses. The path may need to remain on the old rail bed.

Friends of Harold Parker – Rob is working on a boardwalk project at the new NA32-NA33 loop. It is a small project, less than 40 feet, and considered an Enforcement action by the Conservation Commission. Rob will need help carrying materials into the site.

High School Signs – Stan said he had no update. He will wait until the school year is further underway to contact the school.

Fall Festival – Saturday, September 23, 10AM-4PM. Glen asked for volunteers to help at the FONAT booth.

Upcoming Hike: Trails & Sails – Sunday, October 24, Leonhard Trail opening, 1pm. Glen to lead, with Liz co-leader. Co-sponsored by Essex Greenbelt. CPA funds were used purchase the conservation restriction, through Greenbelt.

Boston Hill/Brightview: Note, **this date has since been changed to October 15**, 1pm Boston Hill/Brightview

Conferences and Meetings

Mass. Trails & Greenways, Nov. 3 and 4, in Leominster Liz will be talking with two from AMC about building structures on trails, using the recent Farnum SCA project as a model.

Bay Circuit- Liz reported that Bay Circuit representatives meets with DCR annually and meetings are open.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 6PM, at 1 Johnson Street (The Brickstore on the rotary.)

Submitted By Helena Minton, 10/7/17

