

Friends of North Andover Trails Meeting Minutes 21 March, 2018

submitted by Joe Lehmann

6:05 pm – 7:15 pm

Attendance: 18 people participating: Glen, Brian, Liz, Joe, Jeanne, Rob, Stan, Helena, Tom, Pete, Mike, Steve, Jeff, and new members Jim Murphy, Melissa Macintosh, David and Ben Abbott, and Bridget Logan.

Membership: 4 new members; 6 renewed memberships; 60 have paid dues in the last 12 months.

Treasury Report: Steve reported a bank balance of approximately \$20,000. The year-to-date cash flow statement shows a Net Income of \$1,538.14. The Total Revenue to date from selling Trail Guides is about \$30,000.

Reports from the Trails:

Liz reported that the Bay Circuit Trail is in bad shape, due to broken tree limbs and branches as well as small trees bent over with snow from recent snowstorms.

Tom reports that the Mazurenko Farm trail is also a mess due to storm issues.

Pete said that Osgood Hill looks OK, but Town Farm Forest is very bad after the snowstorms.

Glen said that Edgewood will clear their own trails, per Bob, the property manager.

Liz advised that the Ward Reservation trails should be checked, as there will be a FONAT hike there soon. The trails are steep and could be very slippery or impassable.

Event Recap:

Bay Circuit Trail Hike in March: Liz and Jim Murphy reported that the hike was difficult but enjoyable. The weather was good, and about 35 hikers attended. Many kids participated, even though there were many trees bent over and many branches across the trail. Darlene went above and beyond the call of duty to get some boots from her house for one woman who had totally inappropriate footwear.

Updates on Ongoing Projects:

Trail guides: Since it may be 6 months before the 2nd edition update of the guide is ready, Glen will price out a printing run of 500 guides of the current edition. Depending on the cost, the group was in favor of Glen making the decision to proceed with purchasing 500 or 1,000 copies.

Lake Trail (Stevens-to-Stevens Extension) Boardwalk at Edgewood: FONAT has a Town grant for materials, and Liz has secured approval from the Conservation Commission by means of an Enforcement Order. Liz commented that Enforcement Orders seem to be an efficient way to secure approvals for projects. Kevin B. will manage material purchases. Six bog bridges of thick fir planks (3 planks wide) will be used to span wet areas of 20 to 50 feet in length. All of the work is on Edgewood property. Material can be trucked most of the way to the bridging sites. Construction is planned for the Spring.

Cyr Recycling Center Boardwalk: Liz and Deb completed a photo shoot for the educational signs for the trail. Mike has begun to cut the 12-foot toe-edge boards (donated by Jackson Lumber). He'll need some assistance to complete the cutting once the weather improves. Since FONAT has the funds and we are below the budget for this project, the meeting consensus was that we purchase the signposts rather than make them.

Sign Project: Stan is looking at the purchase of a C & C router which can be programmed to cut sign material. The list price for one with the necessary features would be about \$3,000. A motion was made and carried to approve the purchase of a C & C router. There was no further discussion of the idea from the November meeting to apply for a grant of up to \$1,500 from the Essex Heritage Foundation.

Fields Pond grant: Mike is completing the paperwork for this project, a Bay Circuit Trail re-route. The issue of dealing with abutters needs to be addressed.

New Business / Discussion:

****** Town Master Plan:** North Andover is in the process of updating its master Plan in seven areas including Land Use, Open Space and Recreation, and Historic and Natural Resources. There is an online survey on the Town website that seeks input from residents. **Stan and Brian HIGHLY RECOMMEND that all FONAT members take the survey to make sure that our voices are heard regarding trails, open space, etc.** In a related note, Glen said that there is a lot of interest in developing a rail trail in town as part of the Master Plan. CPA funds can be spent on rail trail development.

Bay Circuit Trail: Liz announced that the Bay Circuit Trail has decided to become a Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. As such, there are numerous benefits as far as leader training opportunities, discounts for training classes, and insurance coverage.

Trail Work Day: Tom announced that there will be a Work Day on Saturday, April 7th at Foster Farm. An E-mail will be sent to members with the meeting time and place.

Town Clean-up Day: The Town D.P.W. has supplies available for the Town-wide clean-up on Sunday, April 29th. Last year, FONAT worked on cleaning up Bradford Street. Glen recommended that we sign up to do that area again this year. It was mentioned that Christina Minicucci of the Boy Scouts can arrange for Scouts to help with trail maintenance or clean-up.

- Upcoming Dates:

- **April 7th (Saturday)** - Trail maintenance day at Foster Farm.
- **April 8th** - Hike at Boston Hill
- **April 29th (Sunday)** - Town Clean-up Day; place to be determined.

- Next Meeting: Wed. April 25th 2018 at Glen's office.