

Friends of North Andover Trails
Meeting Minutes – 28 November 2018
6.00 PM – 7.15 PM

Attendance: 16 people participating

2018 Accomplishments: The highlights of the year included:

- Opening the Farnum – Cyr boardwalk to trail users, with all finishing details completed.
- Six (6) Lake Trail bog bridges were essentially completed, with only a few areas yet to be improved.
- Participated in three (3) town tabletop events.
- Production of the first set of trail signs using the ColorCore material.
- Added to the roster of walk leaders.

All fifteen (15) of the 2018 Goals were reviewed for status. Some were no longer relevant, some were better handled by other town groups and some were still potential targets. It was decided for 2019 we would have a “Must Complete” list and a second on-going list of potential projects as a “5-year Plan”.

Membership: 9 renewals, 1 new member, and 12 active and participating members who have not submitted dues. Overall about 70 people are considered active members. A renewal notice will be sent before year end, reminding people to keep their dues current. Participation in work days in lieu of dues is very welcome.

Treasury Report: Steve reported 2 key items: the sales of the trail guide were down relative to prior year; expenses were high for the month (~ \$9k) with costs associated with the Lake Trail project and a re-printing of the trail guide the major items. The Lake Trail expenses will be reimbursed from the town/CP grant secured in 2016. The BCA dues will be paid once a renewal notice is received.

Guidebooks: Still selling, but not at the pace in prior years. Plenty of inventory.

Reports from the Trails: In general, the trails are in good shape. There were trail reports indicating just minor improvements needed on some specific trails and those will be sent to appropriate people. Work days have stopped for the year.

Events Recap: November walk in Den Rock had ~ 20 participants. This is the first time we have had a monthly walk in this area. Enjoyable area, enjoyable walk.

Meeting Minutes – 28 November 2018 (cont.)

Updates on On-Going Projects:

- **Signs:** the first 4 trail signs produced from the Color Core material were brought to the meeting and looked great! The font used in these signs will become the standard for all future FONAT trail signs.
- **Farnum Project, Lake Trail Project:** discussed as part of the 2018 accomplishments.
- **Rea's Pond Kiosk:** Map and other kiosk material is ready to be produced when the kiosk construction is completed. DPW is expected to reimburse FONAT for costs.
- **Cyr – Stonewall BCT:** In early stages, gaining inputs from town agents for this property and the conservation commission and reviewing options for design. CP grant deadline is Feb 1. Also, we may need to be on the agenda for the Dec CP meeting.

2019 Goals (attached): In reviewing the status of the 2018 goals, we identified five (5) projects that had to be completed in 2019. We agreed that these will be our priorities and we will only add other projects, especially construction of boardwalks and bog bridges, when these are completed. These, plus maintaining the monthly walks and participating in key town outreach project, constitute the 2019 GOALS for FONAT. We will maintain another list, a "5-year strategy", of potential projects and other areas of improvement identified. Most came from the current 2018 list, but others can be added once identified.

2019 Monthly Walks' Schedule: Great response from the leaders. Most months have been taken, walks identified. Some fine-tuning required because of duplication of months/walks. We need more walks on town trails, including the new Lake Trail. Discussion about shifting July and August from Sunday PM to Saturday AM (due to summer heat); will review with specific leaders for those two (2) months. We decided to reduce the Essex Heritage Sails/Trails from 2 walks to 1, by eliminating the Sat walk.

Town Events: Maintain a presence at Sheep Shearing, National Night Out, NA Merchant Association Event. Unless there is a specific desire and availability of resources, we will not participate in the Artisan event or the Farmer's Market.

Upcoming Events: No December meeting. Instead we will have a Holiday Party on Friday Dec 14th. December/9th hike is on James Swamp trail; at least 4 people are available to help.

2019 “Must Do” Projects and Goals

- Complete/install the ECO-Beaver sign as required in the Cell Technology grant.
 - Preference is still to create an information area with multiple information signs near the Berry St. parking area and access to the upper Cyr athletic fields.
- Construct and install a boardwalk in BSF on the BCT, as part of the re-route through Middleton, using the Fields Pond Grant.
- Finish the Lake Trail project, including removing all excess wood.
- Continue to produce and install trail signs using the ColorCore material for town trails.
- Organize the content for the 2nd Edition of the Trail Guide
- Maintain the monthly walks.
- Participate in three (3) key/specified town events.

FONAT's 5-year Rolling List of Potential Projects and Goals

- Continue to support and expand the "Adopt a Trail Program".
- Expand the number of Leaders and Co-Leaders for the monthly walks.
- Install key road and trail signs on the Bay Circuit Trail.
- Add two (2) trails to the Bruins Hill area, jointly with Greenbelt.
- Consider adding nature walks when more leaders are available.
- Replace the stone wall walk on the BCT near the Berry St parking area with a new boardwalk.
 - Secure CP funds in 2019.
- If required, secure 501c3 status.
- Resurrect the Town Farm trails.
- Define what is needed at the Wind Rush Farms/trails.