

Friends of North Andover Trails Meeting Minutes 19 Sept., 2018

submitted by Joe Lehmann

6:05 pm – 7:15 pm

Attendance: people participating: Glen, Joe, Jeanne, Rob, Stan, Helena, Tom, Mike, Jim Murphy.

Membership: One new member, Linda Brodette, and 2 renewed memberships. Glen sent the summer newsletter out.

Treasury Report: Steve was not present to report. Stan said that Rocky's Ace Hardware is still the best seller of Trail Guides.

Reports from the Trails:

Tom reports that the mower has been repaired and he mowed the Foster Farm road.

Tom also said that the Shawsheen Workday had a good turnout, and the new backpack blower works well. The work crew got to the end of the trail, & it is in good shape. Pete Hall cleared some trees on the trail.

Glen said that George E. cut back vegetation at the bottom of Half-Mile Hill.

Event Recap:

Hike at Harold Parker: Glen reported that it was a hot day for the hike, and attendance was low. The plan to do car spotting for the one-way hike worked well (some cars were left at the trail's end to bring hikers back to the start).

Artisan Market: Jim Murphy reported that our volunteer efforts to help set up booths at this Market were appreciated by the vendors. We moved our tent closer to the vendors to get more foot traffic. Jim did an outstanding job as "carnival barker" to engage passers-by to speak with us. We collected three pages of E-mail addresses of people interested in FONAT activities. We discussed ideas to get more visibility with our booth – a sandwich board, a FONAT banner for the tent, and a better way to display our trail map. We also earned \$200 for FONAT for our work !

Updates on Ongoing Projects:

Rea's Pond kiosk sign: Glen reports that he and Deb are working on it. It will include photos and Mazurenko trail info.

Cyr Recycling Center Boardwalk: Mike reports that the toe edges and handrail posts are complete. All that remains is for the rope handrail to be installed and fastened.

Lake Trail (Stevens-to-Stevens Extension) Boardwalk at Edgewood: Saturday October 13th will be Boardwalk Build Day. We will be carrying 3-inch thick hemlock planks and large hemlock sleepers in to the site from Edgewood farm. Many volunteers are needed. Joe checked with Jeff Keeton, the Scoutmaster of Troop 82, to see if they could help. Jeff told him there is a Troop campout that weekend. Joe will also check with the other North Andover Troop (87). Glen checked on the hemlock planks. One vendor didn't have any, but he ordered 150 3-inch planks from another.

Signs Project: Stan said this project is still in process.

New Business / Discussion:

Delegating membership and events coordination: Glen asked if someone would volunteer to oversee the tracking of membership and dues for FONAT. Jeanne Velde agreed to be the Membership Manager, and will work with Glen to get the dues payments up to date. Joe Lehmann and Jim Murphy will oversee the event planning for the group. This will include the scheduling, transport and set-up for the annual Sheep Shearing, Fall Festival, Night Out, etc.

Purchases: Glen has ordered new shirts, stickers and hats for FONAT. The group agreed that we should also buy the following items for FONAT:

- Several 2-pound sledgehammers for construction projects
- A portable gas generator to use for building projects. Some discussion of the unit's size, output, etc. should be undertaken at the next monthly meeting.

- Upcoming Dates:

- **Sept. 22 (Sat.): Fall Fest** - Glen will arrange a schedule of shifts for the booth. A
- **Sept. 22 (Sat.): Stevens-to-Stevens hike** - This hike will be led by FONAT during Fall Fest.
- **Sept. 30 (Sun.): Holt Hill hike** - Rob will lead this hike, Jim M. will assist.
- **Oct. 13 (Sat.): Lake Trail Work Day** - Many volunteers needed (see above) - TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW !!
- **Oct. 20 (Sat.): MACC Conference in Worcester** - Contact Liz if you are interested in attending this trail development conference. The cost is over \$100.
- **Oct. 21 (Sun.): Weir Hill 50th Anniversary** - We will have our monthly guided hike during this celebration at Weir Hill. We will also set up our booth there.

- Next Meeting: Wed. October 17th 2018 at Glen's office.