

Friends of North Andover Trails Meeting Minutes Jan. 15, 2020

submitted by Joe Lehmann

Attendance: Glen, Joe, Jeanne, Jim, Rob, Stan, Helena, Tom, Deb, Jim M., Pete, Steve F., Darlene, George

Membership: Jeanne reports that we have one new member, 16 renewed memberships, and a \$100 corporate matching donation from Smith and Nephew. Stan reports that we still have about 400 copies of the Trail Guide. We discussed that new members should receive something from FONAT for becoming a member - a trail guide or T-shirt were thought to be a good idea.

Treasury Report: Steve was not present to report. Deb noted that the bill for the new "Beaver Sign" behind the recycling center would be due within 7 days of receipt of the sign.

Reports from the Trails: It was reported that there are some trees down on the Carter field trail. George reported that there is a warped board on one of the boardwalks on the new Lake Trail that needs to be replaced. Jim Murphy will plan to replace it.

Lisa had suggested that we mark new trails; Glen said that we need to map the trails to determine the colors needed.

Mazurenko trails had some debris; Town Farm trails were OK; the Cyr trails had one small tree down which Mike removed; and Rob removed a tree at Farnsworth.

Event Recap:

December Hike at James Swamp: Glen reported that five hikers participated and the trails looked good.

January Bay Circuit Trail Hike: Jim Murphy reported that 49 hikers and 3 dogs attended! Only Mike A. and Jim were there to lead the hike. It was difficult to manage such a large group with only 2 leaders. Glen and Jim noted that an announcement on Facebook about the hike might have had an effect.

Updates on Ongoing Projects:

Glen reviewed the list of hikes scheduled for 2020. One or two still need volunteer leaders.

Glennie Wood Lot: Jim M. made a motion that FONAT make a matching fund of perhaps \$5,000 available for donations for the Wood Lot purchase. There was conflicting information about whether the Essex Greenbelt had already reached their fundraising goal. Stan and others were concerned that this would set a precedent for other groups in the future seeking donations from FONAT. The idea was tabled for now. Joe proposed that Treasurer Steve D. should gather some information about FONAT's budgetary needs for future such questions..

Old Farms Lecture: Glen noted that on Thurs. March 26th there will be a lecture at the North Parish Church by members of several old farming families from North Andover (Barker, Kittredge, Smolak). More info is available on Green Belt website.

Signs : Stan said that the Edgewood woodworking group was to research CNC routers, but no response has been received as yet. Mike's friend is prepared to rout some color core signs for FONAT.

New Boardwalk RDA : Jim Murphy is in the process of completing the RDA for a new boardwalk at the Cyr area stone wall. It will be about 100 feet long, on the field side. Tom, Jim and Amy walked the proposed route for the boardwalk.

New Business / Discussion:

Rolling Ridge : Glen said that Rolling Ridge will re-route the trail on a less steep way down the hill. This will require a change in the easement. The new trail will need to be raked and marked.

The 2020 FONAT Hike Schedule : Glen said that the hike schedule still needs to have volunteer leaders for two dates. The schedule was passed around the group to verify everyone's choices (though several of us did not get to see the list).

Lake Regulation Working Group : Jean Enright invited a FONAT member to join this new group to monitor conditions around Lake Cochichewick and propose rules for the area. Jeremy Dick of the Trustees and the Harbormaster will be in the group. Darlene volunteered to be the FONAT representative.

Future Hike on Glennie Woodlot : Rob said that the Essex County Greenbelt is planning a hike on the Glennie Woodlot, perhaps in August 2020. Rob will survey the trails there in preparation.

Alternative FONAT Meeting : Rob proposed that FONAT get together more informally on occasion at a local brew pub; he suggested the Oak and Iron Brewing Company at 18 Red Spring Road in Andover. All in attendance thought this was a good idea, perhaps in March.

Upcoming Dates:

- **February 9th (Sunday) :** Monthly FONAT hike/snowshoe at Town Farm and Farnsworth Reservation, 1:00 TO 3:00 PM.
- **Next Meeting :** Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 at the E-Camm office on the second floor of the Brick Store building in the Old Town Center at 6:00 pm.