

## Friends of North Andover Trails

April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Notes taken by Tina Klein

Next Meeting: May 10 @6pm

### Attendees:

Glen Aspeslagh: [glen@fonat.org](mailto:glen@fonat.org)

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Jim Murphy: [Jmurphy3@comcast.net](mailto:Jmurphy3@comcast.net)

Tom Powers: [trp2011@live.com](mailto:trp2011@live.com)

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Allen Ulrich: [Massprocess@msn.com](mailto:Massprocess@msn.com)

Nancy Sarro: [nandovercsl@gmail.com](mailto:nandovercsl@gmail.com)

Keith Connors: [keithconnors@outlook.com](mailto:keithconnors@outlook.com)

**Membership:** Jeanne Velde, membership coordinator, reports 17 renewals and 4 new members since the beginning of the year. There are approximately 64 active members. Chip Marshall has moved from the area.

**Guidebooks:** Stan reported that guidebooks are still being sold at Rocky's Ace Hardware, Butcher Boy, and Andover Bookstore however sales are slowing and we may have saturated the market with this first edition. He estimates FONAT has sold 2500 of the 3000 that have been printed. This has been a lucrative source of funds to support our work. This may be the year to develop a second edition. Maps will need to be updated by Glen, and Stan is looking into getting help with layout.

**March & April Hike Recap:** We continue to exceed normal levels of participation in the monthly hikes. The March hike through Boxford State Forest attracted 18 participants, up from about 10 in previous years. This is the long hike of the year which covered six miles in four hours. April's hike at Den Rock had 39 participants. Higher numbers may be attributed to listings in the Eagle Tribune and by Friends of Harold Parker.

### Reports from the Trails:

NEW: We now have a spreadsheet (soon to be a google sheet) with two tabs for tracking outstanding/completed trail maintenance and boardwalk maintenance. Trail reports submitted via the website will be added to the appropriate tab by Glen or Mike. Or, you can update the maintenance log directly. If you have some time and are wondering which trails could use some attention, check out the maintenance log for items not yet completed. Once completed, *please* update the log

MONTHLY TRAIL MAINTENANCE : Coming Soon! Tom Powers to develop and distribute a schedule of monthly maintenance days. Jim Murphy, Alan Ulrich and Eric Petersen have express interest in helping to clear trees. Additional volunteers needed. FONAT owns two chain saws not, both currently working. Before deciding to purchase a new chain saw these two will be taken to Rocky's to see if they can be repaired.

Osgood Hill – Large tree across the Green trail, and another across the Orange trail. Tina has provided GPS coordinates in maintenance log. Both are close to the Stevens Estate end of the trails.

Shawsheen River Trail – Three trees across the trail between Hawthorne and Marengo. Tina provided pictures to Tom Powers. He and Jim Murphy are planning to clear these.

James Swamp – Downed trees reported last month have been cleared by Tom and Jim (thank you!) Community trail access from Cricket Lane has been obstructed by the planting of raspberry bushes. In addition, one of the access points from Johnson Street has been obstructed log sized tree cuttings.

Glennie Woodlot and Town Forest – Dead pine that you used to have to duck under has been removed from Town Forest portion of the trail, as has a newly downed pine. Trail looks ready for May 7<sup>th</sup> hike. Currently nine herons have started their nesting activity at the Glennie rookery.

Cyr Recycling Center – The large tree adjacent to the ramp to the new boardwalk has fallen, away from the boardwalk, but the root ball of the tree is lifting the footing out of the water. Mike has taken a look and believes we may be able to trim the root ball and allow the section of boardwalk to settle back in its original location. If that does not work, we may need to rework the ramp section.

Mazurenko – Tom reports that the trash previously reported as dumped in the parking lot has been cleared.

### **Upcoming Events – Volunteers Needed:**

**Town-wide Earth Day Cleanup:** Scheduled for April 23 from 10am to 2pm with rain date of April 30. The meeting attendees agreed to focus again on Bradford Street which historically has had a problem with illegal dumping. Steve Foster will check into getting a police detail to help keep volunteers safe along the roadside. This was helpful last year. Plan to meet at the Mazurenko parking lot at 10am to get a supply of trash bags.

**May Hike at Glennie Woodlot (May 7<sup>th</sup>):** Spread the word. This hike is shorter than most of the monthly hikes and should take just over an hour to complete.

**Sheep Shearing Festival (May 21<sup>st</sup>):** Volunteers needed to sign up for 2-hour shifts between 9am and 4pm to staff the FONAT tent, sell t-shirts, hats and guidebooks, talk to residents about FONAT and the trails we maintain. Joe will email out a sign-up.

**Monthly hikes:** planned dates for all remaining 2023 hikes are listed on the website. New leaders and co-leaders needed. Members are encouraged to look at the schedule and get in touch with Glen if there are any hikes you can volunteer to lead or co-lead. These dates are not set in stone and can be adjusted to accommodate leader/co-leader schedules.

**Citizens initiative to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags:** Presentation by Nancy Sarro and Keith Conners from the North Andover Citizens for Sustainable Living. Warrant article 14 would ban the use of single-use plastic bags from the point of checkout at any establishment in excess of 3000 sq ft that sells food. The restriction would not impact produce base, for example. After hearing the presentation, those present at the meeting unanimously voted to be listed as an endorser of the article. We also had the opportunity to sign up for a lawn sign showing our support. For more information visit [www.nandovercsl.org](http://www.nandovercsl.org)

**Mystic Link Project:** Glen and teamed up with Alan French to work on a multi-town walking and biking trail to North Andover, Andover to the Mystic river area in Medford. A path for the trail has been proposed. The next step will involve a meeting with representatives from each town along the way. Reach out to Glen if you might be interested in becoming involved with this project.

## **Projects for 2023:**

Mazurenko – RDA has been drafted. Glen to submit to ConComm asap with hopes of getting on their next agenda. Long sections of the Scout trail are often very muddy for much of the spring. CPA funds awarded at 2022 Town Meeting for 100s of feet of boardwalks. Will need to scope it out now during mud season when it is easier to identify where boardwalks are needed. Required notification to abutters and notification in newspaper will be done once Con Comm determination is made. This will be a multi-day project.

In addition, there is ~75 ft section of Reas Pond Trail that is now very soggy where the earth was disturbed to replace a sewer line. DPW is requesting help from FONAT. DPW would buy the material if FONAT could provide the labor.

Ousler Property at Osgood Hill – Noted on maintenance log. 2<sup>nd</sup> boardwalk is needed along side new boardwalk because this area gets two-traffic during track meets and the current boardwalk does not easily accommodate people passing one another. This second boardwalk can be funded from the same CPA grant that funded the first boardwalk.

Bay Circuit Trail – Couple low areas between Sharpners Pond Road and the powerlines

Glennie trail signage – specifically at the junction with the loop trail

Lake trail signage – on the Stevens to Stevens portion.

Woodchuck Hill – bridge step repair needed on Orange trail. Discussed possibly using a ramp in lieu of a step. Better for snowshoeing, cross country skiing. Mike, needs to be added to boardwalk maint log.

Half Mile Hill – straighten/replace kiosk

Middleton rail trail – a boardwalk would be helpful to get down the embankment just off Sharpners Pond Rd

Bay Circuit Trail – low areas could use attention

ATV signage and other trail head signage

Boston Hill (and other places) need better signs

Existing meadow and hay field maintenance – very few open meadows continue to exist in North Andover (Carter Hill, Half Mile Hill, Meadowfish Place). Though they are town properties there does not seem to be a schedule for their maintenance, sometimes being mowed by an abutter if/when they'd like to see it mowed. FONAT may think about identifying these locations and recommending a scheduled maintenance schedule to the town so that this unique habitat is not unintentionally lost to forest though lack of upkeep.