

## Friends of North Andover Trails

March 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Notes taken by Tina Klein

### Attendees:

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

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

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Tina Klein: [tinaklein@comcast.net](mailto:tinaklein@comcast.net)

Brian Roache: [brian.roache@outlook.com](mailto:brian.roache@outlook.com)

Mike Agosti: [mike.agosti@gmail.com](mailto:mike.agosti@gmail.com)

**Membership:** membership coordinator not in attendance to provide specific membership numbers. However Glen reports many renewals have been received and a few new members added. Dale Cripe has moved from the area.

**Treasurer Report:** treasurer not in attendance to provide details, but Glen reports that CPA reimbursement has been received for expenses submitted. A few additional receipts will need to be turned in (Jim Brown mower expenses)

**Winter Hike Recap:** January and February hikes were very different from previous years. Boston Hill and Harold Parker hikes each attracted nearly 40 hikers each. Mike noted that the Harold Parker may not be repeated in the future because of the proximity to the shooting range.

March's extended hike in Boxford State Park is scheduled for this Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 5pm and will cover 7 – 7.5 miles. Prospect of fresh snow is exciting. Snowshoes or micro-spikes recommended depending on conditions.

**Upcoming 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.

### Reports from the Trails:

Bruin Hill – Felix reports the trail is in good shape. He has cleared several downed trees and has installed signs to notify hikers that hunting is allowed in the area.

Osgood Hill – Betty Wright (Edgewood resident) reports several downed trees across the Orange trail. Edgewood has taken care of the tree on their property. Large tree near trailhead has been cleared as well, unknown by whom. Tom reports a few of the trees may be too large for a 16" chainsaw.

Shawsheen River Trail – Helen report a large tree across the path

James Swamp – Shelly reports trees down on the Loop trail

Boxford State Forest – Mike has been checking out the trails ahead of the March hike and reports the trails to be in pretty good shape.

Town Farm and Farnsworth Reservation – Mike reports trails are a bit wet but otherwise in good shape

Glennie Woodlot and Town Farm (Town Forest?) – Tina reports trails in good shape. Metal medallion markers mark the trail in from Dale Street parking lot, across new bridge to the loop trail. Discussed the portion of the Town Farm trail which is blazed by not yet officially marked. More planning needs to take place regarding possible entrance from the Carriage Street access point. Deed restriction specifies a 50 ft right of way from Carriage Chase to the Town Farm May also be an access from Coachmans Lane. [Not discussed at meeting – the town continues regular maintenance to the beaver dam along Mancini’s driveway, and the one which can block the drainage ditch. The town is also breaching the dams on the Glennie property near the heron rookery.]

Cyr Recycling Center – Rob reports a large tree has fallen across the older bridge near the Sharpners Pond entrance. Tree has lifted the footing out of the water.

Mazurenko – Jim Brown reports a large dumping of trash

Bay Circuit Trail – Couple low areas between Sharpner’s Pond Road and the powerlines

Boston Hill/Ward Reservation – discussed desire to create a crossing over the water on Cascades Trail, but this is Trustees property, so would not be added to FONAT project list.

## **Projects**

**Completed since last meeting** – At Mazurenko, replaced five 16’ planked sections. In the future we may want to consider raising these sections to give them more chance to dry out between wet spells.

### **For 2023:**

Mazurenko – 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. This is a high priority project that is currently making its way through the ConComm process. RDA (request for determination of applicability) has been drafted. Glen has walked the Scout trail with Amy Maxner, Conservation Agent, but because of the severe drought it of course was not muddy at the time. Plan to scope it out in the spring when it is easier to identify where boardwalks are needed and submit the RDA. Required notification to abutters and notification in newspaper will be done once Con Comm determination is made. This will be a multi-day project.

Ousler Property at Osgood Hill – 2<sup>nd</sup> boardwalk is needed alongside new boardwalk because this area gets two-way traffic during X-C 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.

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.

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 area could use attention

ATV signage and other trail head signage

Existing meadow and hay field maintenance – very few open meadows continue to exist in North Andover (Carter Hill, Half Mile Hill, Meadow Fish Place). 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 through lack of upkeep.