

## November 16, 2016 - FONAT meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:03PM

In attendance: Glen, Brian, Steve D., Stephen F., Alan, Jeff, Rob, Joe, Stan, Helena, Deborah, Jim, Tom, Jeanne

0. No new membership to report.

1. Treasury Report

- \* Over \$13k in account
- \* Took out and took in similar amount.
- \* Annual Bay Circuit Organizational Dues \$50 - time to chip in.
  - \* Attendees OK with FONAT paying that.

2. New FONAT site

- \* Trail Reports form now available.
- \* Form sends email to Glen currently.
  - \* Deb, Rob, & Tom will soon receive.

3. Bridge Work at Mazurenko

- \* "It's done."

4. Osgood Hill Trailhead

- \* Boardwalk repaired

5. Liz lead BSF hike

\* 50 hikers. Most came from North Andover, most were not members. Liz pitched memberships.

- \* 5-6 FONAT helpers

6. Cleanup Day - BSF

- \* Parking Lot clean up
- \* A lot in the quarry water to pick up.
- \* High schooler participated - 10 people helped out.
- \* People split up because there was a lot to cover.
- \* Steve Foster arranged for a truck to cart off the collected trash.

7. Final Hike of the Year at Mazurenko - Dec 11 - Mike Agosti & Liz Armstrong are slated to lead.

- \* More volunteers would be nice.

8. 2017 Hike Planning

- \* Liz brought the 2016 hike list, lead discussion on repeats and new ideas
- \* Connection to Lawrence (Den Rock?) Exploration idea from Al French
- \* Cyr Athletic Field grant may allow for a board walk on which we could hike.
- \* Ideas? Please send them to Liz Armstrong!
- \* Bay Circuit Trail walks - Liz has had many requests to guide from Plum Island to

Duxbury.

- \* What day of the month - Liz would like to lead one monthly
- \* Idea of Liz going half way, then meeting another leader half way to go the full

length?

- \* 3rd Saturday of the month suggested

- \* "FONAT" officially? Sounds like yes.

- \* A lot of logistics to plan - people, RSVP, explain how complex this is to participate. How to deal with no shows?

#### 9. Al French update on Tri-town Trail Connection

- \* Starting back up now.

- \* 6 high schools involved in a program "Confluence" centered on Shawsheen River.

- \* Possible Redevelopment Plan of the "Cinema Properties" may help. Backs up to Castle Heights Citizens Area. Shawsheen Trail starts in Lawrence, comes to High School and stops. Potential, though the process, to gain more access. Possible crossing of 114, under 495.

- \* Who owns dry land between Boston Market and Den Rock?

- \* If FONAT people would like to get involved, please do.

#### 10. Trail Sign Meeting

- \* Need to buy materials.

- \* Berry Pond Swimming area has example of the composite plastic that the Sign folks want to purchase to use for sign making (cutting out material shows white through brown outside, for "no maintenance" signs.)

- \* Liz asks if we can apply for a grant to cover costs. Possibly as "Bay Circuit Alliance" instead of as "FONAT".

- \* Deadline for Essex Heritage Grant may be coming soon.

#### 11. Wilmot Crossing - wet lands in middle of BSF, on Bay Circuit Trail

- \* Need approval from North Andover Conservation Board.

- \* Have not been able to get on the agenda yet.

#### 12. Left over wood opportunities? 50ft worth of bog bridge 30" wide materials

- \* Mazurenko - Highland Trail suggested.

- \* Then the meeting went off on a sidebar in getting town permission to build things:

- \* Rob has volunteered to work through the RDA "Request for Determination of Applicability" process with the NA Conservation Commission.

- \* RDA "Negative" is our desired ruling. Cheapest approval process. Needs some pre-existing trail etc. to enable.

- \* RDA "Positive" means you need a NOI, "Notice of Intent" - needs far more planning and approval. Expensive.

#### 13. New Eagle Scout Project potential

- \* 1/2 mile trail Foxwood Drive to Woodchuck Trail at Woodchuck Hill proposed.

- \* Uses State Forest, Huckleberry Public Land, Foxwood Public Land

- \* Will have to generate an Eagle Scout Project plan, could FONAT review them?

- \* Can he get approvals? Will need to recruit a team with adults. Will FONAT be involved in any parts? ~120hrs of work often necessary for Eagle Scout Projects

#### 14. New Major Cyr Boardwalk Project

- \* DCR grant for 1 of Liz's 7 proposals.

- \* Reroute of BSCT - will almost completely connect BSF & HPSF - through wetlands

- \* 100% funding of all materials, 1 week's labor from young trail pros (training to be trails pros)

- \* Is a Heritage Site. Had to contact Fish & Game. Needs special permission because it's a habitat for certain living things.

- \* Andover and AMC pros will also be involved.

- \* SCA is the granting group.

15. Lake Trail at Edgewood easement will be opening.

- \* Idea: 2017 CPA request for materials to add boardwalks along the lake through many wet areas that are currently used. FONAT has never applied for this, may be a good chance.

- \* 200ft of boardwalk potential usage (3-wide planking [30"])

- \* May be too much work for Trustees, they support FONAT taking lead.

- \* Trustees have a volunteer crew that may be able to be involved.

- \* Truck use is possible.

16. Rolling Ridge

- \* Town has a conservation restriction on 30 acres land in 2011, accessible from Great Pond Road.

- \* No one seems to know about it.

- \* Plan has \$20k allocated to make a parking lot, still unused! There's even a plan for the lot.

- \* FONAT taking lead to encourage the town to follow through. (Glen)

- \* Trails there now, open and hikable..

17. There may be CPA money already allocated, doesn't expire, and unused for signage, etc.

- \* Glen continuing to investigate

No December meeting. Next meeting January 18, 2017.

Meeting adjourned, 7:11pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Christiansen