

Friends of North Andover Trails

Meeting Minutes – 19 July 2017

6.05 PM – 7.05 PM

Attendance: 10 people participating (Brian, Rob, Jim, Glen, Tom, Stan, Joe, Jeanne, Deb, Liz)

Membership: One (1) new member, on-line from North Andover; one (1) renewal.

Treasury Report: Steve reported a healthy bank balance: \$16,487. Trail Guide sales continue to provide most of the YTD revenue with dues/donations much less a contributor. Minimal project expenses reported, albeit Glen noted some outstanding receipts for the guidebook and minor project expenses yet to be reimbursed.

Guidebooks: There has been a general slowdown of the guidebook sales. Before we decide on re-printing the current edition or preparing for a 2nd edition, Stan will take an inventory of the stores and volunteers of how many guidebooks remain. There are a lot of new trails and re-routes of the BCT, so maybe a new edition at this time is appropriate. Glen, Deb and Stan to decide.

Reports from the Trails:

- **Adopt a Trail Program:** 2017 goal to progress this. Generally satisfied that the program is working. Rob will check in the fall if people are walking their adopted trail and whether the forms are easy to use. We don't think we should be getting many trail reports in the summer time, since we asked for spring and fall walks.
- **Tree Work:** FONAT volunteer (Phil) removed 3 large downed trees in Town Farm Forest Trail and 5-6 trees on Half Mile Hill/Osgood Hill Trail.
- **Woodchuck Hill (Monthly Walk):** Area near the intersection with Molly Town Road is generally overgrown, otherwise the trail is generally clear. There is a downed tree, but during the walk, it was easily stepped over by everyone.
- **Rea's Pond:** Area near the parking lot has the "conservation barrier" still in place and there is lots of litter. Suggestion to schedule a special clean-up day to remove the litter.
- **Locust Trail:** Maintenance definitely needed despite recent clean-outs.
- **BCT (near Berry St):** Almost not defined as you enter the "old BCT" going towards the Farnum boardwalk project. This area is on the schedule for a monthly walk – will need to clean out the trail beforehand.

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Reports from the Trails (cont.):

- **Mazurenko Farm Work Day (July – Scout Trail):** Problems with the brush mower, left much of the mowing un-done. Wouldn't start. Boxford had similar problems. Tom suggested we purchase a new battery for the mower before the August workday. Purchase was approved. Some discussion about sending out requests for reimbursement from Andover and Boxford Trails groups, which we can do, but it is a minor expense (~ \$50). Trustees has not done the same level of maintenance as they have in years past, but we like that they warehouse the mower.

Other Events Recap:

- **July Hike – Woodchuck Hill:** ~ 25 people participated; lots of FONAT support – all in FONAT t-shirts – lots of other familiar faces. Not many first time participants. Keith Saxon led – first time leading this year. Very nice 2.6 mile walk, including a new section that was created for an Eagle Scout project. Well laid out, especially the hill section. The Eagle Scout (and his parents) participated in the walk.

Updates on On-going Projects:

- **SCA – Farnum Boardwalk:** Project is on schedule with AmeriCorps crew arriving on Monday – 24 July. Mike and Glen will be on-site at 1 PM to meet the crew and explain the project, swamp pans, etc. Bigger need is for volunteers on Tuesday – 8 AM – 25 July – to help carry-in the lumber from Sharpner's Pond Road. As for the kiosk type, Glen wants a simple information stand; something that is more appropriate for use trailside (versus a more formal kiosk in a parking area.) A diagram was circulated. Glen and Rob will build a prototype. Location is on the BCT ~ 5-min walk from the Barry Street parking area, where there is also foot traffic to the soccer fields. Deb is taking photos on the beaver habitat and changes they cause over time to the eco-system. DCR will be doing site prep work this week.
- **Signs:** No more prototypes; whatever is produced by NA HS FONAT will use as signs. The "Locust Trail" sign was taken onto several trails by Brian/Glen to see if it was easily seen, the appropriate size, etc. Photos of this were shown in the meeting; sign was very visible among all the tress/foilage. For those trails where we need several lines of information, the "Locust Trail" sign is the correct size. For others, it might be too big. There is a list/specific locations for about 5 signs and from there we can evolve into others. Question as to best way to attach to trees? Liz will request information on "self tuning" screw as well as how others on BCT committee attach signs to trees where annual growth needs to be accommodated.
- **Tri-Town Trail:** Al was not present, but Glen reported that a trial canoe paddle from the Shawsheen to the Merrimack Rivers, including under Rte 495, was successful. This trip will provide a basis for what work needs to be done by the Lawrence youth groups. AL is looking for a volunteer to be the FONAT point person for this project. No one in the meeting offered to take on this role.

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Upcoming Events, Volunteer Opportunities;

- **25 July – 8.00 – 10.00 AM:** Help carry-in wood for the **Farnum boardwalk project**. The trail entrance is marked with yellow tape near Cyr Athletic Fields on Sharpner's Pond Road.
- **1 August – Evening:** After a spirited debate about participating, Stan convinced us to have a booth at the **National Night Out**. Stan will follow-up on the registration, etc. Specific volunteers for manning this were not identified, but we thought we could find a few.
- **5 August – AM:** The monthly work day will be at **Mazurenko Farms**, mowing and brushing out the trails and fields.
- **6 August – 10 AM – 2 PM:** Overwhelming support for having a booth at the new **North Andover Farmers Market**. We will avoid fees, by helping in the set-up and take-down of the entire Farmer's Market. Five people were willing to volunteer.
- **13 August – 1.00-3.00 PM:** History walk to the stone quarry, saw mill, in Harold Parker SF. We have done this popular walk each year. Liz to lead; Rob (maybe) to co-lead.

Any Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: 16 August 2017 at 1 Johnson Street