

## **Friends of North Andover Trails**

### **Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2017**

**Present:** Stan, Glen, Rob, Jim, Brian, Tom, Joe, Mike, Bill, Jeff, Helena, Steve (12)

**Membership** – Two people joined as new members.

**Finances** – Steve said FONAT now has ~\$14,800 in the bank. Attached are the transactions for January and February 2017.

**Trail Guides** – no update.

#### **Reports from Trails:**

- Members reported fewer downed trees that they expected after the recent snow storm.
- Tom will be planning the dates for work days for the spring and summer soon, and will let people know what they are. Work days are typically the first Saturday of the month. Because the weather has remained cold, the first work day will be April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- E-mail reminders still need to be sent out to trail monitors encouraging them to walk their trails and send in reports.
- The bridge on Bald Hill was repaired.

#### **Reports on Projects:**

- The CPA grant request for boardwalks along the lake was submitted by Brad Wakeman. The amount for the work was proposed as \$12,000, but several people think it won't cost that much.
- The work at Carter Hill will be done under a ConComm enforcement action. A work day is tentatively planned for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Project material needs to be acquired.
- Work on the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) boardwalk on the re-route will be tentatively done on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The plan is to prefab boardwalk sections in a FONAT member's garage and then truck them to as close as possible to the site. Steve Foster of the town, and Steve David of DCR have both been consulted.
- It's been suggested that FONAT prepare a guideline for the types of ConComm actions under which projects can be undertaken. This would help make project requests look similar, and should improve their chances for approval.

**Hike Report** – Mike, Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Boxford State Forest. Twelve people participated in a “long hike,” which was 8.4 miles and took 4 hours. Everyone who participated seemed to enjoy themselves, and didn't have a problem with the length of the hike. Several said they would like more “long hikes.”

**April Hike** – Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Weir Hill. This hike will follow a similar route as previous hikes, but will include a discussion of historical landmarks which will be able to be seen from vistas on the top of the hill.

**Sheep Shearing** – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am to 4pm, Town Common. FONAT will again have a table at this event, and is looking for volunteers to hand out information throughout the day.

**Trail Signs:** Stan reported that he that the best time for the high school to produce the signs is late April to early June. The plan is to still make paper mock-ups of signs onto the trails and “test” them. One member with graphic design experience volunteered to help with font selection and sign layout. He can also work with the high school to send them files to make it easier for them to make the signs.

**Smolak Farms Nature Walks** – Mike Smolak again attended the meeting to discuss a system of trails around the farm he’d like to plan around his farm, including the Meeting House Commons land. Members of the Meeting House Place Association are interested in helping. Mike said he created trails years ago, but they haven’t been maintained. The property includes a quaking bog, called Ironwood. He is asking for guidance from FONAT and other groups which may be interested, such as Essex Heritage and Greenbelt. Mike would like to form an advisory group to include all interested parties. He thinks there may also be opportunities for Boy Scout Eagle projects. These trails would be open to the public.

**Handouts:**

- Agenda.
- Jan. & Feb. 2017 financial summary.
- Smolak Farms trails projects overview.

**Next FONAT meeting** will be April 12, at 6PM at 1 Johnson Street (The Brick Store at the rotary.)