

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
Trails Subcommittee
3/31/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm

Present: Greg Senko, Bob Smith, Peter Coffin, Geof Harris, Ernie Landry,
Walt Roy, Linda Foss

Excused absence: Melissa Butler, Brad Maxwell, Stan Wentzell, Shaw Tilton

Discussion of minutes:

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted with one change. Peter will be added to the work crew that removed pallets from Frye. Motion by Peter, seconded by Ernie, all in favor.

ATV and Chainsaw Training:

Greg, Geof, Bob and Brad have completed ATV training.

Greg reviewed the chainsaw training links that Ernie provided and found them to provide better information than the online classes he reviewed. It was agreed that the TS would use these videos for safety and technique training.

Greg will ask Rich St. Hilaire about Highway Department ATV training and noted that the gators' limited ground clearance make them unsuitable for trail maintenance.

Kiosks:

Peter has created a cost estimate for kiosks. Kiosks are needed at Acorn, Frye and possibly Sargent. The proposed kiosk is similar to the one at Valley Lane with two posts and a roof.

Geof received a quote for a metal sign which is lower than the quote for the Sintra sign and would be more durable.

Northland Forest Products does not carry pressure treated lumber. The TS will consider asking for a donation.

Acorn Town Forest:

Trail cam: Greg changed the memory card and reported that there were several photos of ATVs, snowmobiles and trail bikes.

The trees blocking access from the Perna's property have been completely cut up and removed from the trail so another method of blocking the trail will be needed. Also, rocks have once again been moved from the stone wall at the access point from Senter's property.

West Kingston Town Forest:

There is a tree down across the Red trail. Bob volunteered to remove it and Geof offered his help if needed.

Valley Lane:

April 17, 9am. Work session to assess bridge repairs and trail re-routing around wet areas. The decking on all the bridges is deteriorating due to age, with some boards rotted out and broken.

Frye Town Forest:

May 1, 9am. Work session to assess reconstruction of the bog bridges provided by the Boy Scouts. The logs that the runners are on are too tall and some are leaning, and the runner boards are warping and unevenly spaced. Ernie suggested that TS recommend that all future projects to be carried out by a third party be subject to TS approval. Greg will prepare a cost estimate to propose to the CC.

Ahl Property:

April 24 at 9am. A work session is scheduled for to reassess the trail re-route around the wet area. Bart Noyes has agreed that mountain bikes can use the trail through his property.

Sargent Property:

Greg measured the area that could be used for parking. The dimensions, 60 x 40, are similar to those at the Tucker-French Gate 5 parking lot. Greg also reported that the berm had recently been removed and will report this to Rich St. Hilaire. The next step is to contact Krista Helmboldt of the Nature Conservancy and schedule a site walk.

Town Forest Walks:

Evy has requested two town forest walks for this summer: one in Acorn and the other in one of the older town forests. SELT has offered to coordinate.

Work Session Schedule:

April 17, 9am – Valley Lane to assess bridge repairs and trail re-routing

April 24, 9am – Noyes property to reassess trail re-route plan

May 1, 9am – Frye to begin rebuilding bog bridges

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm

Next meeting: April 28 at 7:00 pm