

Minutes  
**Kingston Conservation Commission**  
**Trails Subcommittee**  
1/6/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 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 October meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Peter, seconded by Walt, all in favor.

**ATV and Chainsaw Training:**

Greg and Geof have completed the ATV license class. Greg reported that it took 3-4 hours to complete; Geof said that it can be completed in small increments. Copies of certificates should be submitted to Greg so he can submit them for reimbursement and file them with the town.

Greg has found an OSHA-approved online chainsaw safety course for \$25. He will take the course and determine if it should be recommended for others.

**Acorn Town Forest:**

Perna property barricade: The trees and brush blocking access to the Perna's property were removed in December. Since it was first reported, the large tree has been replaced across the trail, but has been cut to allow ATV access around it. The following steps will be considered to prevent future incursions at this site: Install a game camera; rebuild and reinforce the barricade; photo documentation of ATV tracks to determine where ATVs are coming from.

Game Cam: Greg proposed that the game cam be moved from its present position to the Red/Blue trail intersection at the top of the hill just past the third bridge.

2021 Projects: Trails will plan to build a kiosk similar to the one at Valley Lane. Peter will obtain a cost estimate. He noted that while the Neatline maps used by SELT are good quality they are also expensive. Geof will contact RAM printing for a trail map cost estimate. The kiosk will need to be temporarily removed prior to any future timber harvest.

### **West Kingston Town Forest:**

Trails have been marked and bog bridges completed.

2021 Projects: Order and install one or more signs to mark the entrance to the hiking trail. The trail map needs to be added to Trail Finder and published on the ConCom web page.

*\*At this time only QR codes are published on the ConCom web page. Trails would like to also have hyperlinks published to provide map access to PC users as well as mobile phone users.*

### **Valley Lane:**

2021 Projects: Several bridges need repair. The low section on the Red/Blue trail will be evaluated for a possible re-route. One or two other areas will be evaluated for bog bridges.

### **North Kingston Town Forest:**

The deer blind was removed in October.

### **Frye Town Forest:**

Walt, Peter and Ernie picked up and disposed of the remaining pallets. They noted that there were fewer pallets there than previously.

2021 Projects: The existing bog bridges need to be leveled and reinforced. Frye is also in need of a kiosk. Place a Leopold bench at the point of land just past the Blue trail upland re-route. The site by the beaver dam would also be a good spot for a Leopold bench, but needs to be evaluated for poison ivy.

### **Ahl Property:**

Ernie has not been able to contact Bart and has sent him an email regarding trail development.

### **Sargent Property:**

Greg reported on his telephone meeting with Krista ? from the Nature Conservancy regarding trail development and parking. Krista said that the conservation easement allows foot traffic only and prohibits all motorized vehicles, bicycles, and dogs both on- and off-leash. This property has been designated as a sensitive habitat because it contains one of the largest Atlantic White Cedar swamp forest wetlands complexes in New Hampshire.

Krista is willing to evaluate a proposal for a parking area on Sargent Road and would welcome a proposal for a creation of a trail spur to view the Atlantic White Cedar swamp. She also requested that the pallets that had been placed in the low area near the power lines to improve ATV access be removed. Walt and Ernie said that in past years a large number of pallets had been removed from this area but that someone keeps replacing them.

Management of the Sargent property has long been problematic as it has a long history of ATV incursions and limited public access. Our Town Forests, by allowing dog walking and bicycles, have seen increased usage which we believe tends to discourage illegal practices such as ATV incursions. Peter suggested trying to negotiate additional access with the conservation easement holder, as any effort to develop access to this property would need to be justified by increased public usage.

**Town Forest Walks:**

It was decided that while the Trails Subcommittee can coordinate trail walks, the group lacks the expertise to lead a guided walk and will need to rely on other ConCom members or third parties.

It may be difficult to satisfy COVID safety requirements in early 2021, so Trails recommends scheduling a walk for late summer.

**Volunteers:**

Greg asked the Committee to submit names and email addresses of people who wish to volunteer for Trails work so that he can compile an email distribution list to keep them informed of work opportunities.

**Work Session Schedule:**

To be determined at next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: February 24 at 7:00 pm