



**SHP TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

September 15, 2021

6:00 P.M.

**Room A, Stratham Municipal Center
10 Bunker Hill Avenue- Stratham, NH 03885**

- I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.
- II. Roll Call
Committee members in person: Scott Zeller, Seth Hickey, Kate Dardinski, Patricia Weideman, Edie Barker and Kevin O'Brien. Guests: Connie Gilman, Andy Gilman, Dan DeSantis, resident.
- III. Meeting minutes for 8/16 approved by committee.
- IV. Challenges for subcommittee meetings. Must have public access for all meetings. Collective document sharing within subcommittees suggested with subsequent sharing with other members of the committee to facilitate subcommittee outputs. May. also share documents on public site.

Data collection: Tiered approach by examining various vendors for entrance, egress, counters usage, direction day/date, motion activated cameras to track various scenarios, e.g. conflict of use, kind of use, human interaction with volunteers. Consensus is that we should/may procure more sophisticated data collection tools to achieve a more useful data set to characterize park usage. Would like to approach Select Committee about budget keeping in mind that the actual monetary contribution would not likely occur until spring. The committee needs to gain more thorough understanding of the process and timing of budget request and realization. Seth indicated that we can also seek alternate sources for funding, e.g. Park association, Recreation Commission.

Signage: Kate has collected some examples of signage, e.g. SELT. Kiosk vs. trail. Exeter Woods. Assessment of current signage and how to improve as first step. Suggested solutions: Trail closures and how that will affect signage. Trail signs vs. trail markers. Ownership signage. Rules and regulations. Registry boxes.

Trail maintenance: Difference between years largely due to weather conditions 2020 vs. 2021. Work Day to be scheduled.

Dogs: Kevin presented catalog of local ordinances and evaluated actions by other towns. Rye does have some definition of "under control". Use of park different than when the ordinances were originally developed. Scott suggested updating Subcommittee to "Park Use" vs. Dog.

Suggested solutions: Leashes required for specific trails, bike bells, better signage, no commercial use (e.g. dog walkers), use permit, designated leash-free area, segregated walking trails for walkers with/without dogs. Dog bites reported to police department??? Picking up excrement-signs, possible fines

V. **Survey:** Kate reviewed survey results. 285 respondents. Most use on weekdays mornings. Heavily skewed to dog walkers/bikers. Survey Monkey data can be parsed to cross-survey answers to multiple questions. Encourage review of suggestions.

Getting volunteers engaged. How to do so? Survey results showed that approx. 45% of respondents provided emails and volunteer possibilities. Volunteers could be positive for outreach, etc. Question about response rate/town population. Very good rate vs. other surveys performed in town, e.g. Police Department, Solid Waste Management, sports.

Subcommittee operations: Can circulate live draft document which can also be posted. Committee members can do some homework on individual basis.

VI. Homework:

Data collection: finances for counters, specify models. Focus on EcoCounter method that gives more user-friendly data that is more comprehensive, better customer service. EcoCounter is more expensive but quality of service and data collection attributes. Focus on flexibility for future. Multi pedestrian/biker application. Letter needs to be generated and presented to desired audience (Recreation in mid-October, Parks commission does not meet regularly (Greg Blood)). Visitor survey to be conducted by volunteers. Tier: Counters, Survey, Cameras. Introduce as Pilot Study. (Bill and Scott)

Signage: (Kate, Edie, Trish). Assess current signage. Consistent branding of signage for our park recommended. Updated map is needed to correlate with mileage (Trail Forks app). Explore better ways to mark trails. SELT, Trustees of conservation, etc. have good examples. Make sure to include ongoing plan for maintenance, e.g. trail steward program (Hiking group of 12 people walk on Tuesday mornings). Explore reporting mechanism for trail maintenance as part of trail management stewardship. Budget requests will need to be generated.

Trail maintenance: Explore reporting mechanism for trail maintenance, e.g. Trail Care,6C Quick Fix with geotagged photo. Evaluate current conditions of trails. Kate has circulated complete list for maintenance. Need to identify a couple of area/trails to work on for fall 2021. Avoiding use of pressure treated, need to identify/develop standards and trail maintenance guide. Suggest having Trail Hike Group meet with committee. (Seth and Kate)

Use Group: Review existing ordinances. Look at solutions of other areas. Town of Stratham (2004) regulations includes town forest,etc. at Select Board level.

Next meeting: October 6 and October 20. 6:00 PM. Draft documents for subcommittees. Kate will set up TMAC Google Account.

Trail Maintenance Committee: Next Week. Kate will send date.

VI. Other topics for action or discussion:

Next meeting: October 6th at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned: 7:49 PM