

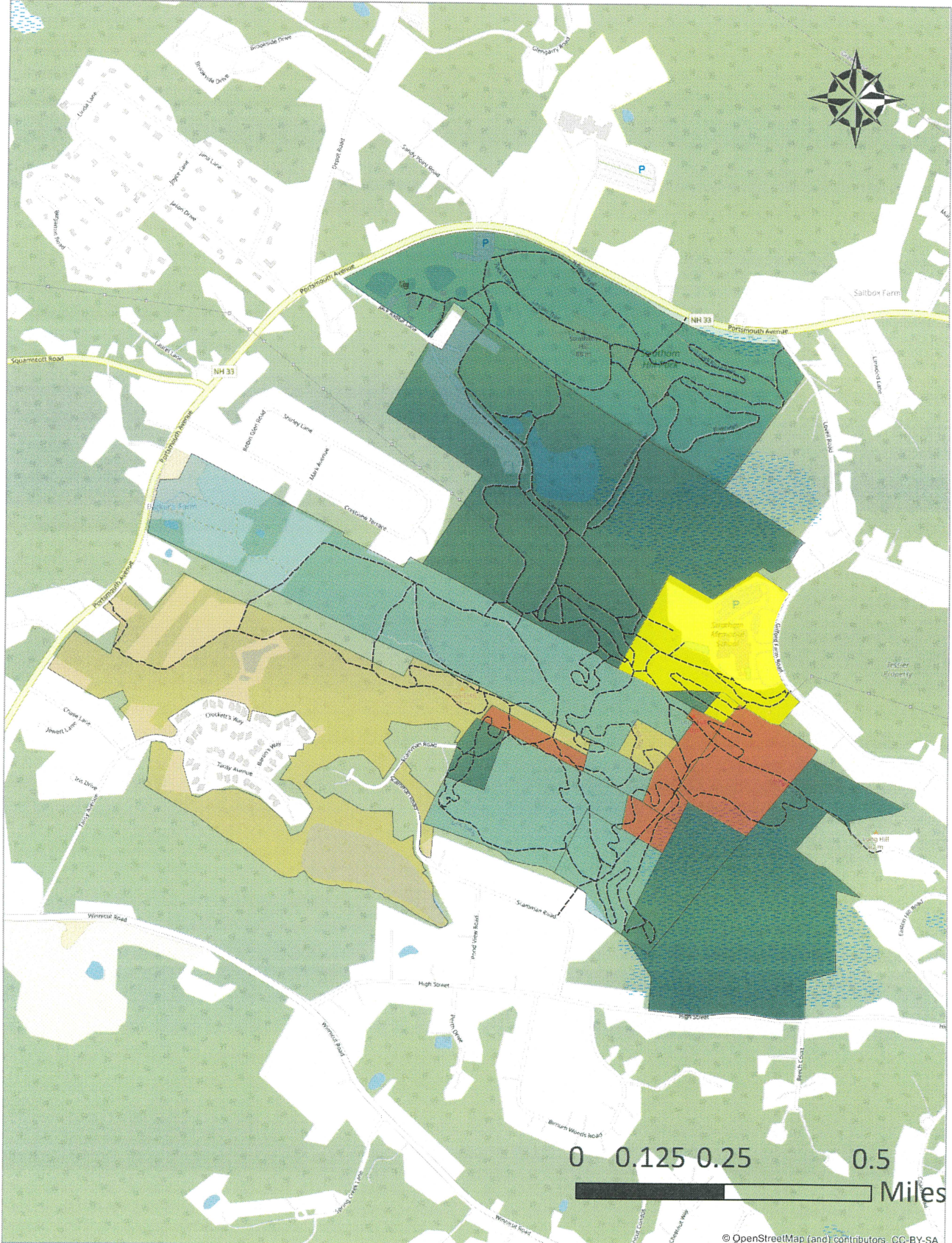
Stratham Hill Park Ownership Map

Legend

----- StrathamHillTrails **OWNERSHIP**

- TOWN OWNED
- PRIVATE/PROTECTED - SHORT
- PRIVATE/PROTECTED-BARKER
- SCHOOL DISTRICT

- PRIVATE/UNPROTECTED-PUBLIC ACCESS
- PRIVATE/UNPROTECTED- AGREEMENT
- PRIVATE/UNPROTECTED - HALEY
- PRIVATE/UNPROTECTED - ROSS
- PRIVATE/UNPROTECTED-CHASE



Stratham Hill Park Trail Management Advisory Committee

Framework for Interim Status Report to Select Board

Note: The purpose of our report to the Select Board is solely to update them on the status TMAC. There is no expectation that we will be presenting any concrete recommendations for action. That being said, we do need to let them know why our task is relevant, the areas of concern and how we are going about gathering data so that we can make informed recommendations to them in the future.

Purpose of Committee Formation

- Stratham Hill Park is a rare and wonderful resource. It is essential that appropriate steps are taken to protect it and ensure that it is preserved for posterity.
- Maximize enjoyment of the resource for the greatest amount of stakeholders while balancing conservation considerations and the interests of multiple (and sometimes conflicting) user groups.

Components

- Aspects of the physical asset itself
 - Understanding the various parcels that comprise the trail system
 - Understanding the various easements, covenants, right of ways, restrictions and permitted activities
 - Trail infrastructure considerations
 - Proper layout in accordance with best practices
 - Erosion
 - Drainage
 - Grade
 - Proximity to wetlands
 - Dealing with “rogue” trails
 - Need for proper rain stops and bridges
 - Signage
 - Trail names
 - Map kiosks (“you are here”)
 - Prohibitions
 - On-trail markers
 - Maintenance
 - Written plan
 - Budget
- User groups of the park
 - What are the various activities occurring in the trail system and how many people engage in each type of activity?
 - Are certain activities more frequent at certain times of day?
 - Are certain activities more frequent in certain areas of the trail network?
 - Is there a seasonality to certain uses?
 - What potential conflicts exist between various uses?

Data Collection and Analysis

- Who, when, where, how
- Counters
- Eagle scouts or volunteer organizations
- Note: The trail report is a great resource for infrastructure data

Potential Remedies

- Areas segregated by activity
- Activities segregated by time of day
- Instituting one-way directionality of trails
- Prohibition of commercial use (dog walkers, camps, etc.)
- Residency requirements
- Phased approach to all of the above

Challenges

- Community buy-in
- Enforcement
- Labor
- Funds
- Implementing changes without negatively impacting the park's character (e.g. overbearing signage, restrictions that don't address a statistically significant problem)
- Achieving consensus on proper balance of all considerations (i.e. is this really more an issue of better planning and maintenance and less about restricting activity and arbitering disagreements on facebook's "Stratham Talks")