



**City of Keene, New Hampshire**

**AGENDA**

**GREATER GOOSE POND  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

**3:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall**

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Minutes of June 20, 2018**
- 3. Review of Draft Forest Stewardship Plan with Consultants Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological Inc. and Swift Corwin**
- 4. Project Next Steps**
- 5. New or Other Business**
- 6. Adjournment**

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**GREATER GOOSE POND**  
**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN ADHOC COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

**9:00 AM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

**Members present:**

Tad Lacey, Chair  
Dorothy Howard, Member  
Andrew Bohannon, Member  
Peter Poanessa, Member  
Tom Haynes, Member  
Dr. Denise Burchsted, Member

**Staff present:**

Tara Kessler, Planner

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

**2. Prioritization of Draft Trails Report Recommendations**

Tara Kessler provided a handout containing a summary of the recommendations included in Josh Ryan's draft Trails Assessment Report. She explained that the purpose of the meeting is to prioritize the recommendations for which the City would like Mr. Ryan to include cost estimates. Chair Lacey questioned the extent that the City would pursue the Report's recommendations, and expressed concern for the potential impacts of increased use of the trail network, if the trails were to be improved. He stated that he is in favor of many of the improvements, however. Mr. Poanessa stated that he presumed the limits for which the City would pursue recommendations may be set by cost. He also questioned whether implementation of the Report's recommendations would lead to a dramatic increase in the use of the forest. Andy Bohannon noted that he views improvements being made through a phased approach. He recognizes that improvements may lead to increased use of the forest, but some of these recommendations are critical to maintaining the forest.

Dr. Denise Burchsted questioned what the goals are for the trails plan. Tara Kessler noted that the Committee has agreed upon goals for the Stewardship Plan and there have been multiple discussions regarding the basis for the proposed recommendations. Ms. Kessler redistributed the list of Plan goals to the Committee.

Ms. Kessler encouraged the Committee to review the list of recommendations for which they are to prioritize. The first recommendation was related to blazing and trail signs. Andy Bohannon noted that blazing is to provide for wayfinding in the Forest and that this has been successful in other communities. Peter Poanessa expressed his opinion that the recommendations for blazing are excessive. He noted that the trails in Drummer Hill are currently well defined. He stated that there may be vandalism and theft if these blazes were implemented.

Tom Haynes noted that the City could walk the trails and designate location for blazes where needed. Peter Poanessa stated that he thinks signage is important and that having signs through the trail system for navigation makes sense. However, he thinks the homemade signs work. Dr. Burchsted noted that there needs to be clear distinction between blazes and signs and where they are located. Chair Lacey noted that there could be over-blazing.

Overall, the Committee discussed that it would caution against over-blazing and only blaze main trails.

Peter Poanessa noted that the only main trail in the Drummer portion of the forest is Gilsum Rd. He questioned whether the City would blaze Gilsum Rd. Chair Lacey noted that there is confusion about where the trails cross private land versus City land. Tara Kessler noted that the group discussed the matter of whether trails should direct people onto private land from public land at the last meeting. It was concluded that, at a minimum, there be signs that clearly show where a trail leaves City land and crosses onto private property. Chair Lacey questioned whether a sign is enough. Peter Poanessa noted that the marking of the forest boundary is necessary. Tom Haynes asked how many land owners are impacted by trails crossing onto private land. Peter noted that maybe 15 or more and that some have 3 or 4 miles of trails.

Dr. Burchsted recommended not blazing trails that lead off the City land. She noted that out of respect for the property owners, the City should not direct people that way.

Chair Lacey noted that there is a division of the use of the trails between bikers and hikers.

Peter Poanessa noted that NEMBA does not have plans to change their trail map to rename trails. He suggested that the City trails that have color codes as names could be changed.

There were questions expressed by Committee members as to the value of renaming. Ms. Kessler brought up the Report's example of renaming Wild Thing, as the name may deter hikers or others from going on this trail due to perceived difficulty. Tom Haynes noted that it may make sense to consider the naming separately. Peter Poanessa noted that it might make to rename the trail leading out to Wild Thing as it connects to the Goose Pond network.

Dorothy Howard reminded the group of their task at hand, and encouraged that the discussion move on to other recommendations.

Dr. Burchsted noted that there should be a cost estimate provided for blazing and signs at trail junctions.

Tara Kessler suggested moving on to the recommendation related to kiosk installation. She recapped the goals for the plan and the recommendations. Chair Lacey suggested that the kiosks could be used to include information about what is happening in the forest. He thought there may be too many kiosks recommended.

Andy Bohannon noted that there are three kiosks at Drummer hill, and one at the main entrance. He suggested that the three at Drummer Hill are in good condition and not be replaced. He recommended replacing the kiosk at the main entrance and installing a new kiosk in the area of the proposed parking area to the south of the main entrance. He would like to keep the kiosks at the trailheads.

Regarding the recommendations related to improved communication between NEMBA and the City, Peter Poanessa noted that the only item for which they may want a cost estimate would be addressing the railing on the bridge. Andy Bohannon and Peter Poanessa will follow up on this recommendation.

Tara Kessler moved on to the recommendations related to the multi-use pathway and accessible trail. Tom Haynes asked if the parking lot is happening. Andy Bohannon replied in the affirmative. He noted that the main access to the Dam will not change; however, there will be an access road built to the dike that is to be repaired. Dorothy Howard asked to have a sign that says “not to pass on the hill” at the location of the proposed parking area. She noted that people are parking right in front of the existing gate. Andy Bohannon noted that this is because there is no parking in this area now.

Regarding the proposed multiuse pathway, the group discussed the dam project and improvement of the maintenance road to the dike. The Report recommendation spells out a proposed tread width and surface material. Andy Bohannon noted that this road will be developed and will be able to be used as a trail following completion of the dam repair project. He does not see this recommendation as a priority, as much of the proposed work is happening regardless. Other group members agreed.

The group discussed the recommendation for the accessible pathway. The group agreed to include this as a priority item for which to obtain a cost estimate.

Peter Poanessa noted that he has already pursued the recommendation to use non-pressure treated lumber for bridge decking. While he did look into using black locust, it may be too expensive.

Tara Kessler walked through the list of trail maintenance recommendations and asked which of these recommendations should be a priority.

Tom Haynes asked if there are trails that should be closed and if this information should be included in the report. Andy Bohannon suggested that Peter Poanessa and NEMBA have an idea of the trails that should be closed or rerouted. Peter Poanessa noted that reroute and repair is preferable to closing a trail. He thinks that Labrynith could be put on priority list of trails to improve.

Tara Kessler noted that the Report recommends rerouting the main entrance trail. The group agreed that this is a priority.

The group discussed the recommendation to relocate the bridge along the Pond Trail. Peter Poanessa suggested that before the bridge be relocated, they examine if the problem with water ponding is trees that fall and dam the area.

The group discussed whether the recommendation regarding the Pond Loop intends for the trail tread to be widened. It was determined that the recommendation was to create a consistent corridor through cutting vegetation, and it is not to widen the tread of the trail. However, the group would like the recommendation to be stated more clearly to avoid potential confusion. There was agreement that this is an important recommendation.

Tom Haynes stated that he is curious to know if there are trails that can be discontinued and suggested that these be included in the document.

Chair Lacey stated that there should be some limits on new trail building. Peter Poanessa noted that there are challenges trying to control this.

**3. New or Other Business**

No new business was discussed.

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

Respectfully submitted by Tara Kessler, Planner