



City of Keene, New Hampshire

Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee

Friday, April 22, 2022

8:30 AM

**Room 22 Upstairs – Recreation
Center – 312 Washington Street**

Thomas P. Haynes, Chair
Art Walker
Steven Bill
Mike Davern
Brian McBeairy

1. Minutes – March 11, 2022 meeting
2. Membership
3. Discussion Items
 - a. Trail Maintenance Workshop
 - b. Signage
 - c. Grant Applications
 - d. Field Work
4. New business
5. Adjournment – Next meeting, May 13, 2022

Greater Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Subcommittee

March 11, 2022

8:30 AM

Recreation Center – RM 22

Present

Thomas P. Haynes, Chair

Andy Bohannon

Art Walker

Steven Bill

Not Present

Mike Davern

Brian McBeairty

1. **Minutes** – February 11, 2022 meeting

Chair Haynes called the meeting to order at 8:39am.

Mr. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes of February 11, 2022 as presented. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. **Membership** –

Chair Haynes stated they can remove this item from the agenda.

3. **Discussion items**

- a. **Trail Maintenance Workshop** – Chair Haynes stated he contacted Lou Shelley and worked out two Saturdays for trail maintenance workshops: June 4th and July 9th. Mr. Bohannon stated he isn't aware of any conflicts.

Mr. Walker asked if it will be the same thing happening for both days. Chair Haynes stated the focus will be different for each workshop. He explained that they will start at the North trailhead old parking lot and begin teaching people how to build a trail. He noted that they want to reroute that trail up to the pond. The second workshop will be as you go up on the North trailhead where the stone is and it's really wet. There they will teach people how to deal with water. He went on to state that volunteers could continue to finish what they don't get done on the workshop days, so the trail going to Goose Pond will be in good shape by the end of the summer. There was general agreement with that idea from the group.

Mr. Bohannon stated they will advertise the workshops via the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Walker asked if there will be a registration cap. Chair Haynes stated

they will allow between 12-15 people max, which is an appropriate number to be able to get the work done. He mentioned that Mr. Shelley doesn't want kids under a certain age unless accompanied by a parent. The time will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Chair Haynes stated Mr. Shelley charges \$600 per day, so one workshop would be in the current fiscal year and the July workshop would be in the next fiscal year. He added that he will approach ConCom. Mr. Bohannon agreed that it was a good idea to list them as co-sponsors.

Mr. Bill asked if tools are required for the workshops. Chair Haynes stated Mr. Shelley will provide tools unless people want to bring their own. Mr. Bohannon stated the Recreation Department has equipment as well, they'll just need to know what's needed ahead of time.

Chair Haynes stated the next step is to do another walk of the pond to make certain those are the 2 areas they want for the workshops, and also have Mr. Shelley walk the area they want to target for grants so he can give an estimate for grant purposes. Chair Haynes added that he is leaving at the end of month and won't be back until April 16th, and suggested they wait to do the walkthrough until after his return. He expressed excitement over these workshops and mentioned he can get trained and be a trail leader. Mr. Bill suggested they could use this as a springboard and eventually create a Friends of Goose Pond or something similar.

- b. **Signage** – Chair Haynes reminded the group that they had liked the wood signs similar to those of the Friends of Pisgah example Mr. Davern showed them. He stated next they will need to figure out how many signs to make and who can make them. Mr. Bohannon stated he talked with Peter Poanessa who is willing to make the signs and would volunteer, or charge them very minimal, he will just need the number of signs, a list, and what colors.

Mr. Walker asked if the signs would be posted on trees or post mounted. Chair Haynes stated there are a couple of spots where they may need posts but they will mostly be tree mounted. Mr. Walker asked if the posts are chest height and Mr. Bohannon replied yes, the posts are typically around the 3 to 4ft range.

Discussion ensued with regards to doing a walkthrough to decide on number of signs and details for signs. Mr. Bohannon stated they named the trails last meeting so they just need to know how many of each and where they will be placing them. There was some discussion on wanting to finalize the names one more time with Mr. Haynes mentioning that he's not comfortable with the Howard Trail name. Mr. Bill asked if they could do it in phases and Mr. Bohannon stated if they just focus on the loop that could be the first phase. He added that access from parking lots are part of that. Mr. Bohannon suggested someone go out and walk around and mark on a map where they need the signs and then he can go to Mr. Poanessa with that information. Chair Haynes

stated that would be the best approach and volunteered to go along with whomever else in the group wants to join.

Mr. Bill asked if they need to think about the wood material and asked if it's typically pine. Mr. Bohannon stated Mr. Poanessa is a huge trail advocate and bike rider and will make sure the signs are done the right way.

Mr. Bill stated users may not know north and south all that well for parking lot signs and suggested they do north boulder and south lot with mention of the gate, just to help people really connect the directions. Chair Haynes stated they could put a sign right at the road saying south parking lot and north parking lot and then signage on the trails which will direct them back. Mr. Bohannon stated he can get the City sign department to do that and agreed with Mr. Bill that for the south parking lot they should have some language related to the emergency gate. He added that they could also put on the bottom of the current sign language such as "north parking ahead 900ft".

Chair Haynes suggested he do this walk through before he leaves. Mr. Walker stated he will join. They decided to try for March 17th, a Thursday afternoon around 1:30pm.

Chair Haynes referenced the map Mr. Davern developed and noted some differences.

Mr. Walker asked what they are going to do with the maps and mentioned it felt disorienting to have two separate maps. Chair Haynes stated the idea was to have paper maps at the kiosk that people could take into the trails with them. Mr. Walker understood and agreed with that idea.

Chair Haynes added that there will be a few other strategic places with maps that say 'you are here.' Mr. Bohannon stated he'd like to take the map Mr. Davern made with the insert, blow it up, add logos, and move the insert to the lower left corner so people can more easily read it.

Chair Haynes stated the green feels confusing. Mr. Bill suggested color coding the bike trails and walking trails. Mr. Walker stated it's difficult because there are so many trails and the scale seems so small. The group decided to wait until the next meeting to go over the map when Mr. Davern is present.

Mr. Bill stated they might also want to add reference to trail junction sign posts on the map. Mr. Bohannon suggested they do a large sign post (36 x 48) mounted on its own. Chair Haynes clarified that it would be in the trailhead kiosk area but in its own separate sign outside of the kiosk. Mr. Bohannon stated it would be a pretty substantial sign and would solely have the trail map, all other information would be on the kiosk. There was general agreement with that idea.

- c. **Grant Applications** – Chair Haynes stated he attended a workshop put on by the Student Conservation Association and the Recreation Trail program. It gave information

on where grants are available that may incorporate student conservation workers. He added that the Recreation Trail program had much more detail and the grant deadline is June 17th. There is a required workshop in May, which you have to attend if you apply for the grant. Mr. Bohannon stated he will attend if required. Chair Haynes explained that the process would include applying, it then goes through a long review process, and then the following year around this time is when they award. He added that the work needs to be completed by December 31st and they could get up to \$80,000. In other words, they would get awarded around April and need be done by December next year. Mr. Bill stated that might limit what they want to put in their proposal. Chair Haynes stated Mr. Shelley can help them with that. He added that it's an 80/20% match and they can use volunteer labor, donation and equipment as match. He stated he will walk a section with Mr. Shelley to determine what they want to go after with that grant.

Mr. Bill asked if Mr. Shelley would do the labor and Chair Haynes stated he is a one person crew who often works with volunteers. He stated the Student Conservation Association could be someone they work with.

Mr. Bill stated rerouting the entire section of trail may not be possible in 6 months so they may need to pick out pieces. Mr. Bohannon stated, with regards to the Student Conservation Core, they would need to provide a place for them to live and without the campground they would need to figure out where to place them. He stated the two crews he's had from them in the past he hasn't been super impressed with and added that you have them for 4 weeks at a time. Chair Haynes stated that's just one option. Mr. Bohannon stated VT has a state version of that program that can go out of state that they could explore as well.

Chair Haynes stated he will contact Mr. Shelley about the supplemental labor, which will help them decide which section of trail they want to work on. Mr. Bohannon stated they could also hire someone to do the work and it would be covered in the grant. Mr. Bill asked what Mr. Shelley would charge for labor and Chair Haynes stated he is unsure and will work out those details. He suggested they hold on the grant application until they get more information from Mr. Shelley as far as trail section and the labor piece.

Chair Haynes added that American Trails is offering trail money this year. The application is due April 15th and is not an extensive application but there is some detail. He suggested they go after that next year. He added that it's a small grant and would be a good one for a small project with volunteers. Mr. Walker agreed that the timeline is short and staff have their plates full already so next year may be better. He noted that it's an in-kind match of at least 20% for that grant.

- d. **Field Work** – Chair Haynes stated they scheduled the trail walkthrough for next Thursday, March 17th.

4. New Business

Chair Haynes mentioned that through ConCom, an educational outreach group, they have walks at Goose Pond through the seasons, and May 21st will be a bird walk around the loop with Steven Lamonde. They will likely have Matt Kelly come back in the summer to do more and in the fall they have Jeff Littleton coming to do his “reading the forest and landscape walk.” That one will help people understand the signs the forest tells us about its use and history. Mr. Bohannon stated commented that those are great happenings and added that they will start meeting with the Harris Center who does walks in Robin Hood regarding owls, which will open up more conversation and opportunities for education. Chair Haynes stated they can partner with the Harris Center in namesake as well to spread the word.

Chair Haynes stated in terms of the Stewardship Plan they need to consider how they improve wildlife habitat and if relocating trails further away from the pond does open up habitat for birds. He suggested they build some wood duck boxes at the trails and asked Mr. Bohannon if he’d be able to get into contact with Boy Scouts. Mr. Bohannon stated he will touch base with them about making wood duck nest boxes. Mr. Bill asked if wood ducks normally come by that area. Chair Haynes stated they’d be creating a cavity for them to be able to come by. Mr. Bill stated they could tie that into invasive species as well. Chair Haynes stated fortunately they aren’t seeing a lot of that in the pond right now, so that’s a good thing.

Mr. Bill had a trail book with information about mounting signs to trees and stated he will look into it to try and prepare.

Chair Haynes stated he will not be in town on April 8th and asked to postpone to the next meeting until April 22nd. There was general agreement.

5. Adjournment – Next meeting, April 22, 2022

There being no further business, Chair Haynes adjourned the meeting at 9:28am.

← Trail Signs →

Beginning at North Trailhead. Proposed signs in bold. All signs to be centered. Numbers are also referenced on a map.

1. North Trailhead

Road Sign: Five 2 x 6 lagged into two 4 x 4 posts and 47 ¾ long - Replace the second and third boards - center words to say:

Goose Pond	(leave)
North	(replace)
Trailhead	(replace)
→	(leave)
	(blank - leave)

Letters are painted, perhaps in Yellow, and my need to be redone.

Move or replace kiosk to south side of parking area. Sign by trail: **To Goose Pond →**

2. On approach trail, mid-way where path comes down from the spillway: ← **To Goose Pond**

3. At junction w/ approach trail and loop trail. Post on the water side of trail.

← Goose Pond Loop Trail →	← North Trailhead
Ford Spillway →	North Trailhead →

4. At jct. with trail to private land: **Loop Trail** →

5. At jct. with current Red on White trail. Maybe on a post.

← Loop Trail →	← To Ursa Minor Trail	At trail jct. Ursa Minor →
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6. At jct. with current Blue on White trail. A good place also for a map w/ you are here.

← Loop Trail →	← Mattson Trail	← To Labyrinth Trail
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At trail jct. **Labyrinth Trail**

7. Just after crossing bridge: **Loop Trail** →

8. On large pine tree by pond (currently with white painted blazing. ← **Loop Trail**

Because we are wanting to guide hikers away from the pond at this point to avoid the mud and hemlock wetlands, another sign that says: **Follow** (with a colored blaze marker nailed to the wood). Place these colored blaze markers on this section of the trail to where it meets up with the Outback Trail and then a little way into the hemlock forest to help keep people on the main trail as there is much braiding and mud to avoid. In hemlock: ← **Loop Trail** → **Follow** (with blaze color)

9. At jct. with Outback Trail. ← **Loop Trail** → ← **Outback Trail**

10. East end of dyke and further into the forest to cover both paths:

← Loop Trail →	Loop Trail →	← Loop Trail
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11. Just before the dyke near the end of the access road. Loop trail follows the road for a short distance. ← **Loop Trail** → ← **Dyke Trail**

12. At jct. where Dyke Trail and Loop Trail branch off. **Loop Trail** → ← **Dyke Trail**

13. At jct. with old Loop Trail & proposed new trail: ← **Loop Trail** → **Loop Trail** →

14. At jct. with side trail to access road and renamed Wright Trail.

← Loop Trail →	← Wright Trail	Wright Trail →
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15. At clearing by spillway and west end of dam. Install an informational kiosk or post?

← Goose Pond Loop Trail →	← Ford Spillway
← South Trailhead	South Trailhead →

16. At road jct. to Goose Pond and the Dyke: **← To Goose Pond** **Dyke Trail →**

17. By road at entrance to South Trailhead, a sign like the one at the South Trailhead. Two post and five 2 x 6 attached with letters centered.

Goose Pond
South Trailhead
(long arrow) **→**
blank
North Trailhead ??? Feet Ahead

Off of dyke access road, now the Dyke Trail.

18. At jct. with old road. **Wright Trail →** **← Wright Trail** **← Dyke Trail →**

18. At jct. with new Wright Trail crosses Dyke Trail, 2 of each.

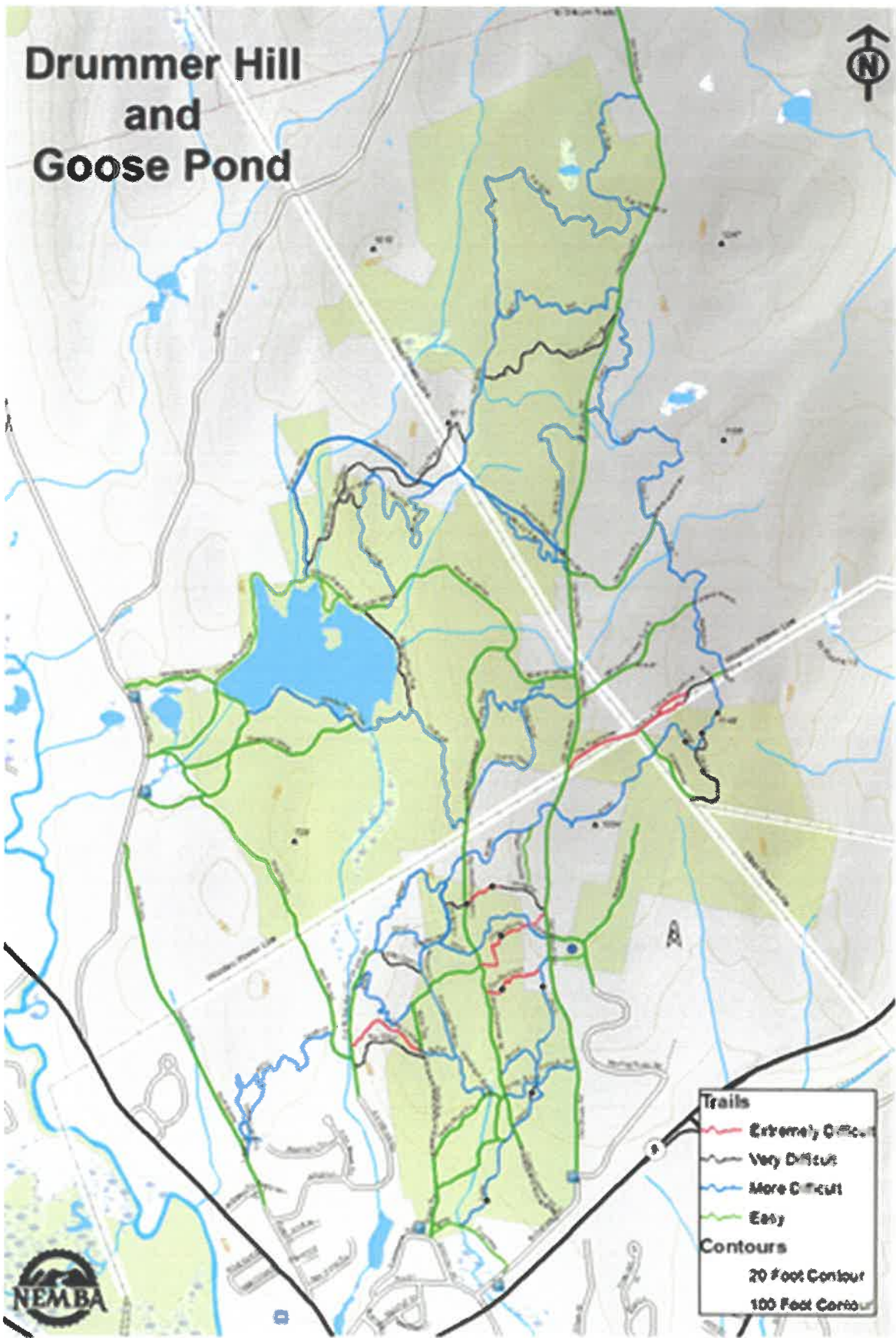
Wright Trail → **← Wright Trail**

19. Off the Dyke Trail: **Bicentennial Trail**

Total list of trail signs:

- 1 - **To Goose Pond →**
- 2 - **← To Goose Pond**
- 2 - **← Goose Pond Loop Trail →**
- 1 - **← North Trailhead**
- 1 - **North Trailhead →**
- 1 - **Ford Spillway →**
- 1 - **← Ford Spillway**
- 5 - **Loop Trail →**
- 8 - **← Loop Trail →**
- 2 - **← Loop Trail**
- 1 - **← To Ursa Minor Trail**
- 1 - **Ursa Minor →**
- 1 - **← Mattson Trail**
- 1 - **← To Labyrinth Trail**
- 1 - **Labyrinth Trail**
- 2 - **Follow with room to right to nail a blaze marker**
- 1 - **← Outback Trail**
- 2 - **← Dyke Trail**
- 1 - **Dyke Trail →**
- 1 - **← Dyke Trail →**
- 3 - **← Wright Trail**
- 3 - **Wright Trail →**
- 1 - **← South Trailhead**
- 1 - **South Trailhead →**
- 1 - **Bicentennial Trail**

Drummer Hill and Goose Pond



Trails

- Extremely Difficult
- Very Difficult
- More Difficult
- Easy

Contours

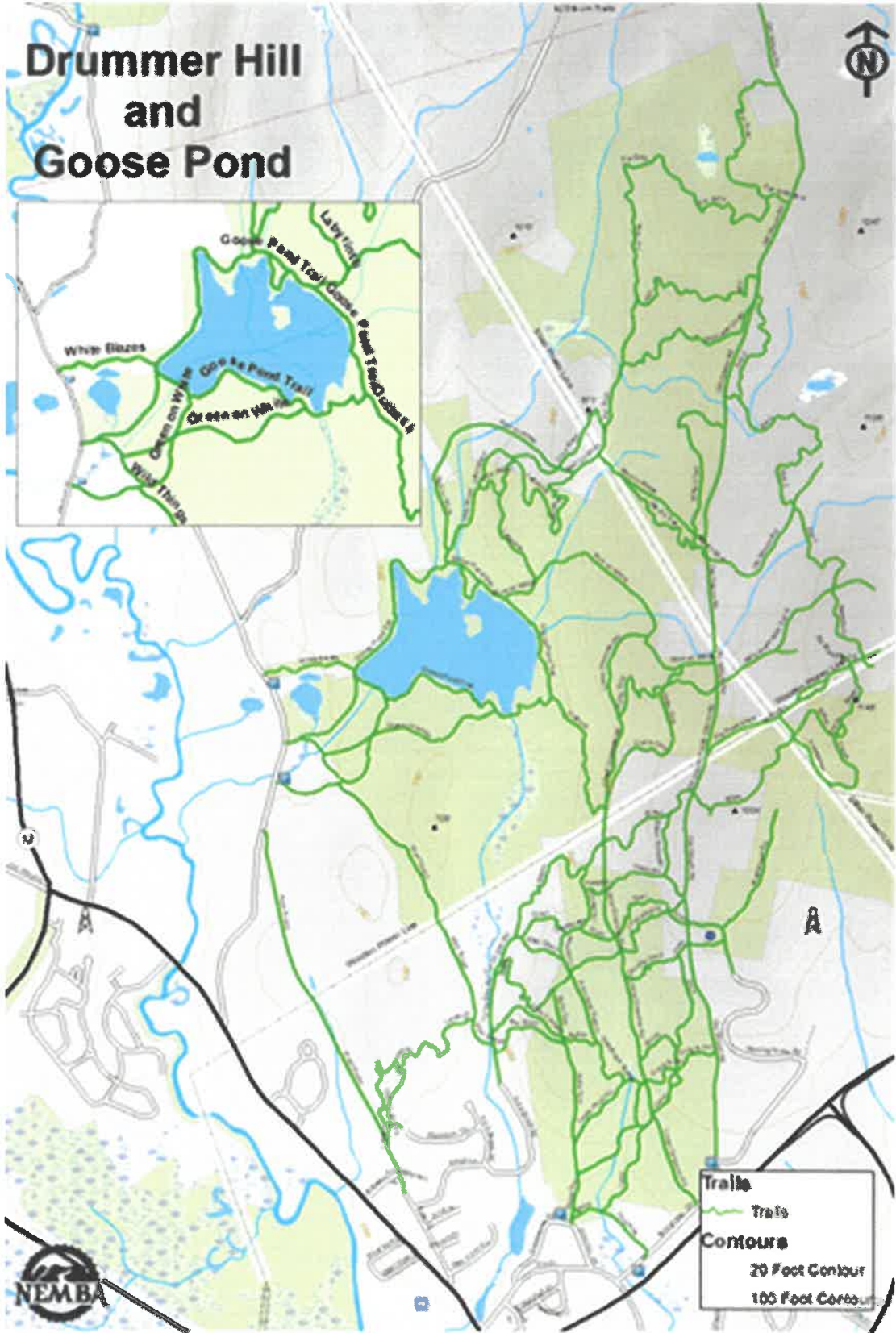
- 20 Foot Contour
- 100 Foot Contour

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

Do Not Block Gates When Parking

Created 3/7/2022
By BKA/NEMBA

Drummer Hill and Goose Pond



Trails	
	Trails
Contours	
	20 Foot Contour
	100 Foot Contour



Do Not Buy Gas When Parking

Created 5/10/2022
By DR, NEMBA