

KIMBALL WILDLIFE FOREST COMMITTEE

MEETING Minutes

January 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Virtual Session on Zoom

1. Attendance: Alexandra Breed, Rebecca Watson, Dan Tinkham, Scott Dunn, Rebecca DiGirolomo, Sandra McGonagle, Pat Bennett
2. Approval of minutes – December 3, 2020

Moved by Alexandra Breed; seconded by Rebecca Watson; minutes approved.

1. Work session: Discuss the strengths and areas in need of improvement of the Lockes Hill Trail system

Sandy asked that the group begin by identifying some of the **strengths** of the Lockes Hill Trails.

 - popularity of the trails

 - accessibility

 - signage for the various stations, good educational possibilities

 - views, access to binoculars in 3 locations

 - evidence of demonstration areas such as bird study, prescribed burn, crop

 tree study

 - clear-cut area; there are additional things that might be highlighted;

 addition of a spur trail might be considered.

 - blueberry area, more might be done here

The discussion then moved on to areas **in need of improvement.**

 **-** trail repair, especially focusing on use of better barriers in order to

 discourage the creation of short cuts; creation of signs such

 as “Please stay on the trail” or “Be a good hiker”; a note in the brochure

 reminding hikers to stay on the designated trails.

 - access to Carye Trail; signage for the trail should clarify that the trail leads

 Rt. 11B and not to the trailhead parking lot on Rt. 11.

 Should we promote use of the Carye Trail if it is not going to be maintained?

 Sandy has been unable to reach Chris at NEFF to get feedback.

 - Switchbacks; need advice from a consultant.

 - possibility of opening up a trail across the middle of the land; would need

 help from a consultant for a project like this.

 Would need to check with Tim Nolin on how this might affect forest

 management plans.

 - trail markings; need improvement, repainting, mostly on the Lakeview Trail.

Sandy asked Rebecca DiGirolomo to share her thoughts on a tour of the prescribed burn area she took with John Neely. She pointed out numerous factors including signs of previous burns, resprouting of red maples, etc. A reburn in this area every 3-5 years would be recommended, maybe expanding to potentially about 40 acres. Unfortunately, the Forest Service protocols have changed and they no longer conduct prescribed burns this far from a National Forest. Rebecca is looking into other resources although it may require funds from KWF to make this happen. Possible contacts would be Steve Carrier, GFD; Mike Crawford, Nature Conservancy; NH Prescribed Fire Council, of which Rebecca is a member. Sandy asked Rebecca to pursue this. Sandy also suggested she might try to research previous burns.

Rebecca also suggested that at a later date the committee might like to visit the site, and perhaps bring along clippers to do some trimming!

It was decided that at the next meeting, the committee will review today’s discussion and then consider companies who might be able to assist us. Numerous resources have been suggested and Dan will make some calls. Rebecca DiGirolomo clarified that she cannot be a participant in discussions about contractors.

Additional notes:

1. Trail map - Rebecca was forwarding a copy of the map but we’re not sure it includes the KWF/private property boundary updates.
2. Forest Management Plan – the committee was reminded that Tim would be working on this sometime this year.
3. Signage – Dan is going to forward some possible Carye trail signage, similar to a format used by BRATT.
4. Castle Update- Scott Dunn

No report

1. Old Business:
* Recognition for John Colby

 Sandy has been in contact with John Colby’s son, Mike, and he was pleased to hear

 of the tribute. In addition, she stated that she was just contacted by Richard and

 Linda Kyle, friends of John, who offered to contribute a bench. The committee was

 receptive toward the idea, although there was discussion about the proposed location

 of it in the parking lot. Concern was expressed about possible vandalism. Another

 possible location might be in the clear-cut. If considering this spot, we might want to

 contact Tim Nolin about the intention of keeping this area cut-back. Sandy will

 connect with both Mike and the Kyles to get further thoughts and perhaps ideas for

 design of a bench.

1. New Business
2. Next Meeting- February 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bennett