

KIMBALL WILDLIFE FOREST COMMITTEE

MEETING Minutes

February 18, 2021 4:00 PM

Virtual Session on Zoom

1. Attendance: Alexandra Breed, Rebecca Watson, Dan Tinkham, Tim Nolan, Scott Dunn, Rebecca DiGirolomo, Sandra McGonagle, Pat Bennett
2. Approval of minutes – January 21, 2021

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

1. Work session: Review the discussion from the meeting of 1-21-21 and then consider companies who might be able to assist us. (“**Areas of Improvement**” below taken from meeting minutes)

***Areas of Improvement noted in our discussion last month:***

* ***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 to 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?***

* ***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.***

***Thoughts from Dan Tinkham:***

***Sandy et al:***

***I spoke with Erin Amadon of Town 4 Trail Services, LLC out of Troy, Maine.  She recently completed the work at the base of Mt. Major for SPNHF and comes highly recommended.  She is not familiar with Lockes Hill or the trails, but does know the area.  If we want her to do professional trail work on the Lakeview Trail, she described a typical plan:***

* ***After snowmelt, she would come and walk the trail, hopefully with a group of us, to visualize the problem so she can create an estimate of the scope of services.***
* ***She asked if this work would have to go out to bid and I did not know the answer.  Is there a bid requirement for expenditures on the property?***
* ***If so, she will prepare a cost estimate and, if necessary, she can help us prepare bid documents.***
* ***In the meantime, she would like maps for the area including trails and property boundaries and any literature about the trails. I will pull those together and send them off to her.***

***Other questions:***

* ***Are we willing to relocate trails, if that is deemed the best strategy, or are we restricted to the current trail footprint***?
* ***Much of the big work may require power machinery.  Are we okay with bringing small power equipment up the trail (i.e., mini-excavators)?  For the switchback portion, that seems feasible and a good idea.***
* ***Between the overlook and the summit the trail is deteriorating badly, but it may be difficult to use power equipment in that area, so we may want to tackle that with more labor intensive efforts.  She can walk it with us and advise on that as well.***
* ***She is willing to work with volunteers, but warns that has met with mixed success over the years, depending on who volunteers and what is proposed.***
* ***Are these trails just for walking?  One attraction for low grade, sustainable trails is that bikers enjoy using them…***

***As least we can get started on the discussions…***

***Thanks.***

***Dan***

 (3. Work Session continued.)

 Sandy asked for comments on the **areas of improvement** noted above.

 Tim responded that, from his perspective as a forester, he would be looking at how

 the addition of a new trail and reworking of current trails/switchbacks might impact

 forest management and access for future infrastructure work.

 Members all agreed that seeking the advice of an expert was necessary. Dan gave us

 information on Erin Amadon of Town 4 Trail Services, LLC, who he feels could

 give us some guidance and could also perform the work, if we so desired. After

 discussion about the possible scope of the work, costs were questioned. Dan

 indicated there could be significant costs if a lot of labor and/or machinery were to

 be involved. In response to a question about how KWF expenditures are handled,

 Scott clarified that any costs over $500 require Board of Selectmen approval and that

 projects over $10,000 would have to be put out to bid. Sandy reiterated that we

 generally like to keep the Board apprised of any special projects.

 As a beginning step, Dan was asked to contact Erin Amadon to get a quote on

 meeting with us, after snowmelt, to address our issues, give us advice, and hopefully

 help us develop a project proposal. Following that we will make further decisions

 about work to be done. Tim suggested that development of a trail maintenance

 plan be part of that proposal. Dan mentioned trying to find a trail “adopter”, someone

 who would keep an eye on the trail much the way John Colby had done. In addition

 there were a few questions on possible trail use by those other than hikers.

 Dan spoke about the new signs he created and posted to identify the Carye Trail.

 While the committee is interested in coordinating with this trail, it was agreed that

 nothing further should be considered until there can be discussion with NEFF as this

 trail is not on town land. Rebecca D. questioned whether there was a conservation

 easement and Alexandra suggested there might have to be some sort of contractual

 agreement if we wanted, in some way, to promote this trail. The issue of trail

 maintenance was again raised. Since Sandy has been unable to connect with Chris at

 NEFF, it was suggested that she might try to contact Peter Farrell, also with NEFF.

 Trail maps were then discussed. Rebecca D. had forwarded a “new” map on which

 the boundary lines of the KWF had been corrected, taking out the castle property.

 There was discussion about a survey map of the property. Tim noted that sometime

 over the summer, he would be painting the boundary lines. At some point when we

 create a new trail guide, we might find ways to make the map more visually

 interesting and user friendly with the use of color and/or symbols, for example.

1. Old Business:
* Recognition for John Colby: Richard and Linda Kyle have provided a picture of a bench which is their first choice in memory of John. I have also advised them that it would likely be May or June before we could get a truck up the Carriage Road to place the bench. Meanwhile we need to decide on what a sign will say in memory of John and get the sign commissioned.

Along with today’s agenda Sandy included a picture of the bench that the Kyle’s were suggesting in recognition of John. A sign/plaque to be placed on or near the bench would need to be created. There was discussion about how the bench should be anchored and whether or not a wooden bench was the best option. Scott suggested that we consider something of cement or granite such as what was installed in Glendale. Sandy will take a picture of that bench and share our thoughts with the Kyles.

1. New Business
2. Next Meeting- March 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bennett