



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Conservation Commission

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MINUTES

Palmer-Bartell Trail Walk

August 31, 2019

Started in Palmer-Bartell Parking Lot at 8:00 am

Present: Buddy Dougherty, Chair of the Conservation Commission
Tom Rogers, Member of the Conservation Commission
Ron Olsen, Member of the Selectboard and Alternate Member of the BCC
Jerry Jaworski, Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission
James Gibson, Member of the Trails Committee

Matt Caron, President of the Southern NH Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA), VP of NEMBA, Chair of the Merrimack NH Conservation Commission

Purpose of the Trail Walk

1. To evaluate the degree and cause of the erosion on sections of the Sanborn and Drop-Off trails.
2. To determine whether the re-route of the Winding Ledges trailhead to avoid a low muddy section that is exacerbated by a seasonal stream resolved the wetness problem and resulted in a sustainable trail consistent with the natural environment.

These issues had been raised by Buddy during the August 13 meeting of the Conservation Commission.

Erosion on the Sanborn Trail

The Sanborn follows a logging trail that has multiple pairs of deep parallel ruts that according to Buddy were made during a wood harvesting operation 40 years ago. The eroded area in question is a 20' section of the trail that is in one of those ruts. According to

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Matt Caron, the rut is too deep and too narrow for mountain bikes to get through and there is evidence that hikers and mountain bikers are walking/riding around the rut. Matt pointed out that water flow both down the trail following the rut and across the trail from the high side to the low side would cause the rut to become wet and muddy and that under those conditions, soil carried by boot and tire treads would eventually lead to the erosion noted.

No other sections of the Sanborn were identified as having excessive erosion.

Erosion on the Drop-Off Trail

The area in question is the steep, rocky drop-off at the junction with Blue Trail. No significant or excessive erosion was noted on this section.

Re-route of Winding Ledges Trail

We walked the entire re-route. The water problem is solved.

Along the way, we pointed out and discussed the rocks that had been removed from the trail and the retaining berm that had been installed at the junction with the existing section of the trail. Buddy is of the opinion that this type of work alters the natural landscape and should not be done. Matt and James explained that the work was necessary to make the trail sustainable (i.e. more resilient to erosion) and more pleasant to ride and hike.

Adjourn

The walk ended at approximately 10:30.

Buddy Dougherty, _____

Tom Rogers, _____

Ron Olsen, _____

Jerry Jaworski, _____

Minutes submitted by Jerry Jaworski

Next meeting will be held on September 10, 2019

This meeting was held in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Main Street









