

“Stewarding Our Lands” LSS Working Group

4/14/23 meeting summary

In attendance: Ann Welsh, Gale Carey, Sara Callaghan, Mike Drooker (Zoom)

- 1) The Feb 12-Mar 19 trail counter data, which were added to the **ORF/SHB** Questionnaire Findings, were reviewed. Sara will leave counters in place through mid-June, in order to collect user data in winter (Feb 12-Mar 19), spring (Mar 19-mid-May), and early summer without UNH students (mid-May-end of June). The **ORF/SHB** Findings will remain in draft form until these data are added. Mike suggested language for a sign at OFR that clarifies the use of dogs, shooting and hunting, per town ordinance. Sara suggests renaming the trail that leads from the Oyster River Trail to the Spruce Hole Bog Loop, the “Spruce Bog Connector”. We also discussed the significant herd path that is being used by mountain bikers, connecting the Stonewall Loop and the Spruce Hole Bog Loop.
- 2) We added to the list of Recommendations in the **Longmarsh** Questionnaire Findings. Sara will move trail counters to Longmarsh at the end of June. We discussed the possibility of reclassifying the current Class VI road to a Class A trail.
- 3) We drafted Recommendations for the **Jackson Landing** Questionnaire Findings and discussed poison ivy and dog issues (appeared in Questionnaire Comments) especially because so many children are at the playground. Given that the purpose of Jackson Landing is “To provide a site for recreation and to protect the shore of the Oyster River”, are we doing enough to address shore protection?
- 4) We developed a schedule for *Friday Updates* appearance of questionnaires for **Milne/Mill Pond Park/Town Landing** (5/5, 5/12 and 5/19), **Packers Falls** (6/16/ 6/23 and 6/30), and **Wiswall** (7/28, 8/4 and 8/11).
- 5) What is the future of this working group? By fall, we will have completed our charge, and suggestions were made that this group could morph into a Trail Stewards Group, led by Sara, that meets monthly or bimonthly.

Action Items:

1. Sara will continue to collect trail counter information at **Oyster River Forest** through the end of June, then move counters to Longmarsh Preserve.
2. Mike will share the language he devised for a sign at **Oyster River Forest** regarding hunting, shooting and dogs, per town ordinance.
3. Sara will investigate the possibility of converting the herd path that connects the Stonewall Loop with the Spruce Hole Bog Loop into a hiking trail at **Oyster River Forest**.
4. Sara will investigate how best to eradicate poison ivy near playground at **Jackson Landing**.
5. Mike will insure that **Milne et al.**, **Packers Falls**, and **Wiswall** Questionnaires, and accompanying pictures/maps, are sent to Karen Edwards for inclusion in *Friday Updates*, per devised schedule, above.
6. Sara will relocate information and map of **Merrick Easement** to “Other Trail Maps” on Trails page of “Our Community” on town website.
7. Gale will clarify if swimming is listed as an activity at Packers Falls Park and/or on town website.

Next meeting:

May 15, 2023, Monday, 10 AM in Town Hall first Floor Conference Room