

**LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road**  
**Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2025**

**Members Attending:** Gale Carey, Myrta Janosz, John Carroll, Darrell Ford, Carolyn Singer, Ted Howard, Neil Slepian in place of John Nachilly, Sara Callaghan in place of Ann Welsh, and Marty Gorham

**Absent:** Ann Welsh, John Nachilly

**Also attending:** Veronique Ludington, Rachel Gasowski and Todd Selig

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Gale Carey.
2. The meeting agenda was approved.
3. The minutes for the February 12, 2025 meeting were reviewed, edited and approved with one abstention.
4. E-Bikes on Town Trails

A summary titled E-BIKE USE RULES ON TRAILS was distributed to members. This summary outlines E-Bike classifications and the allowed use on lands managed by the Department of Interior BLM, USFWS, State of NH, NHFG WMA, NH Forest Society and The Nature Conservancy. A copy of this document is attached.

The subcommittee members and attendees discussed the various E-Bike classifications, and the use of bicycles and E-Bikes on town owned trails.

It was noted that Class 1 & 2 E-Bikes are typically allowed on trails where bicycles are allowed.

It was noted that E-Bikes are not considered motorized vehicles by the State of NH.

With an informal show of hands; it was decided that the members should review whether Class 1 & 2 E-Bike use should be allowed on town properties where bicycles are allowed, and be prepared to discuss this at our next meeting.

5. Stewardship Coordinator Update

Veronique Ludington, the new stewardship coordinator discussed some of her recent stewardship coordinator activities.

- There are currently 32 trail stewards and volunteers.
- Is working to update property narratives and photos on the town website.
- Indicated that UNH Research Associate Professor Alexandra Contosta would attend a future LSSC meeting to update the committee on Spruce Hole Bog research and findings to date.
- Met with Steve Eisenhaure to address trail signage improvements in Stevens Woods.

- Is planning to reinstall trail markers on the Oyster River Forest trails using tamper resistant screws.
- There is a possibility that the New England Cottontail will be reintroduced in the North 40 at Wagon Hill Farm.
- Is planning a fall bio-walk with the Recreation Department.

## 6. Reports from Committees

### Recreation

The Recreation Department is planning future Discover Durham's Trials walks for April, May and June.

### Conservation Commission

The CC is continuing work on the amendment to the Wetland and Shoreland Overlay District Zoning.

The CC is compiling and coordinating, with town departments, a list of invasive plant species.

### Historic District Commission/Heritage Commission

Work funded with an LCHIP grant has begun at the Bickford-Chesley House at Wagon Hill Farm.

### Agricultural Commission

The AC is collaborating with UNH undergraduate students on new surveys on local food and farming and how much support will be given by town residents.

## 7. The subcommittee adjourned at 10:05 am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.

# E-BIKES USE RULES ON TRAILS

## EBike Classifications

- CLASS 1** | 20 mi/h | Pedal-assist
- CLASS 2** | 20 mi/h | Throttle & Pedal-assist
- CLASS 3** | 28 mi/h | Pedal-assist (+ optional throttle)
- CLASS 4** | 28 mi/h & over | Motor over 750W

### **DPT OF INTERIOR (BLM Lands):**

E-bikes are allowed on roads and trails limited to bicycles and non-motorized travel ONLY IF a BLM Manager has issued a written decision authorizing e-bike use in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/e-bikes/faq>

### **USFWS(Wildlife Refuge):**

Dept of Interior allows e-bikes where conventional bikes are allowed but a lot of Refuge have rules on their trails prohibiting bicycles anyways (Great Bay only on entrance Rd, Parker River only on main paved refuge Rd).

### **STATE OF NH:** RSA 259:6, 259:27, 265:144.

- Class 1 or 2 e-bikes may be used on bike paths or multi-use paths where bicycles are permitted. However, facility management may ban their usage.
- Class 3 e-bikes shall not be ridden on a bicycle or multi-use path unless within or adjacent to a highway or roadway, or authorized by the facility management.
- Above provisions do not apply to a trail designated as non-motorized if such trail has a natural surface with no added surfacing materials. Facility management may regulate the use of e-bikes on such a trail.
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Class 1/2 E-bikes/bikes allowed on small number of State Park trails. A lot of State Parks do not allow any bicycle use due to natural/cultural resources sensitivity, and also post no bikes allowed signs in mud season in other parks.

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/things-to-do/biking>

### **NHFG WMA:**

Still working on codifying rules about e-bikes, NH and VT last states in Northeast not to have decided on that. In the end most states in the Northeast do not differentiate or single out e-bikes from conventional bicycles (only VA and NJ prohibit Class 3 e-bikes).

### **NH Forest Society:**

Working on codifying but in general E-bikes not allowed on non-motorized use trails/ same as bicycles. But never clearly name ebikes on website/trail use signs.

<https://www.forestsociety.org/visitor-use-guidelines>

Most Land Trust owned conservation lands do not differentiate e-bikes from bicycles. Ex: SELT authorizes bike use on some trail(therefore class 1 or 2 ebikes?) of one property but not all trails (check Piscassic Greenway trail map).

<https://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/piscassic-greenway-mobile-7-2024.pdf>

### **The Nature Conservancy:**

Bicycles therefore e-bikes prohibited in most preserves.