

**PRESENT:**

Andy Hughes, Acting Chair  
Rodney Dellafelice  
Marie Nickerson  
Anita Stevens

Excused: John Yule, Chair; Kim Rimalover, Andy Seale

Members

Richard Elliott (Alt) – Acting Full Member  
Chris Costantino (Alt) – Acting Full Member

Town Representatives

Paul Dargie, BOS representative

Guests

**Appointment:** Griff Comtois – Pollinator Garden planning and discussion. This did not take place

Post-meeting note: Chris learned that Griff was expecting to present via Zoom. He will meet with the MCC in March. He appreciates the idea of applying for Keyes Trust money. The MCC will write a letter of support for the funding request, due Jan 31, 2024

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Meeting Minutes approval	The December 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved, as amended, on a motion by Marie and seconded by Rich	Chris will post on the Town website
2. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	January 27 – weather permitting at Tucker Brook.	
3. Donation from Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC)	Acceptance of \$500.00 donation from a runner for the GTRT races. Her company matches volunteer hours which she donated to the Ghost Train. Piscataquog LC managed the donation which had to be directed to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Chris made a motion to accept the donation, which was seconded by AndyH; unanimous approval	Chris will write a memo to the BOS and the Finance Department notifying both of the donation and acceptance.
4. Membership renewals	AndyH, Marie, and Chris are up for MCC member renewal. Marie wishes to become an Alternate Member. Rich will become a Full Member. Marie will assume Rich's term as Alternate. AndyH and Rich will be noted as full members; terms expiring in 2027.	Letter of recommendation to the BOS for renewal for Rich, Chris, AndyH, and internal reorganization for Marie as an Alternate
5. Hub's bridge repair	Hub's Bridge at Emerson Park needs some attention to replace missing boards and be repainted. More structural repairs may be required.	Rich is going to take a look at the bridge and estimate costs.
6. Swale bridge repair at the DPW GTRT trailhead	This bridge will be repaired this year. This could be a Cirtronics project if we are lucky enough to be a recipient of their volunteer program.	

7. Keyes Trust Grant	The members discussed this funding opportunity. We decided that it would be better to encourage Griff Comtois to apply for funding for his Pollinator Project and that we write a letter of support.	Chris will contact Griff to see if he is interested in applying for the Keyes funds.
8. Resident Tree Planting Program	Table this discussion until John Yule (Chair) is present.	
9. Existing and Future Trails Planning Map update	The members studied the Existing and Future Trails Planning Map. The Kokko family has asked that the trails on their property be removed as they do not want to encourage the public to walk on their land. They are seeing an increase in abusive behavior. We will also remove a section of Tucker Brook North that is on the map. We discussed the potential of removing the SRT trails from the map.	Chris will create and post a flyer at the SRT West kiosk warning hikers about undercut bank hazards.
10. Rail Trail problem north of Melendy Tunnel	There is a washout at the Compressor Pond embankment. Chris was unable to find good advice from the Trails Bureau. The DPW equipment is too big for this type of work. The next step would be to talk to the snowmobile club. Another option is to apply for National Park Service technical assistance. This may not be prompt enough to help us solve this problem.	Chris will contact the snowmobile club to see what resources they have that would be helpful.
11. Annual Report review	The annual report is due on January 15. The suggested edits from the members were 1) the Rotch TF Management Plan that was done by the Antioch students, 2) remove the fine print under the Armory Rd Rail Trail Crossing graphic, and 3) the plaque dedication at Melendy Tunnel	Chris will make the changes and submit to Tina
12. Reports	Milford Community Land Ecological Survey – Moosewood Ecological. Nothing new to report	
	Town Forests: Potential Hitchiner Timber Harvest discussion. Southern section of the TF.	Set up for a work session discussion
	Groundwater Protection District update. Chris worked on an Explainer document for the PB to understand the changes that have been made to the existing GPD ordinance. Chris asked that the members read it and make comments as needed.	Chris will make sure that the relevant documents are in google drive.
	Armory Rd /Rail Trail crossing – we continue to wait for cold weather and suitable snow cover. Next week (w/e Fri Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> ) could be the right conditions	
	Open subdivisions – place holders to check for changes Falcon Ridge – Monumentation of lots. Spaulding – Monumentation and easement of the open space  No changes in status for either since last mtg	

13. Work session	January 25 <sup>th</sup> . Discuss Rich's potential ideas for Hitchner TF timber harvest and Ghost Train 2024	Griff: re-schedule for another meeting
14. Interdepartmental Review.	none	
15. Adjournment	AndyH adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm	

**Next Regular Meeting – Feb 8, 2024 @ 7PM. NOTE: This will be an in-person in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Virtual (remote) access may be available via Zoom. Access details will be included on that meeting's posted Agenda**

**2024 Meeting Dates: Jan 11. Feb 8. Mar 14. Apr 11. May 9. June 13, Jul 11. Aug 8. Sept 12. Oct 10. Nov 14. Dec 12**