Concord Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

4/8/2026 Council Chambers Room, City Hall Annex

Members Present:
Fran Philippe, Andrew Gould (Secretary), Rik Van Riel, Mark Cheever (Chair), Jason Massa, Nick Holmes (Vice Chair), and Rebecca Ross.
Staff: Kearsten O'Brien (Senior Planner), and Beth Fenstermacher (City Planner), Ron Klemarczyk (City Forester).
Other: Jeff Lewis (Conservation Commission).
Absent: Judy Weatherbee (Alternate), Max Hankard (Alternate) and Carl Matson (Trail Ranger).
Guests: Matt Bowser (New England Mountain Bike Association) and Al Larson.

1. Meeting called to order at 5:17 PM.

2. Approval of 3/11/26 meeting minutes. Fran Phillipe made the motion, Jason Massa seconded the motion. Nick Holmes and Rik Van Riel abstained.

3. New Business
    a. Approve 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Goals: Kearsten O'Brien will make edits and present them to the Conservation Commission.
    b. Matt Bowser and Al Larson presented about geological features along the Ghost Pipe trail at Broken Ground. NEMBA proposed adding and paying for five signs at sites of interest along the trail. NEMBA will share drafts of the signs at a future meeting. Fran Philippe made the motion to move forward with this project, Rik Van Riel seconded the motion. Unanimous.

4. Trails maintenance and reporting
    a. Ron Klemarczyk:
        - Blazed the West End Farm Trail.
        - Ron, Nick Holmes and Andrew Gould will set up a workday for the fence project on the West End Farm Trail.
    b. Carl Matson: absent
    c. Trail Stewards:
        - Rik Van Riel will set up a Google Form and spreadsheet for stewards, Trails Subcommittee members and Conservation Commission members to log trail work hours and information.
        - Rik Van Riel to set up a trail stewards appreciation day in late summer.
        - Rik Van Riel and Kearsten O'Brien to make sure all trail stewards have signed the waiver.

5. Old Business
    a. WEFT signs requested by Carter Hill Orchard. One large 12” diamond shaped sign for the telephone pole and ten smaller 6” diamond shaped signs for Carter Hill and other areas along the trail.
    b. Updates to the Trails Subcommittee webpages. Nick Holmes presented possible edits to the Trails Subcommittee webpage and the trails webpage. Kearsten O’Brien said it is not possible to edit the Trails Subcommittee webpage under the Government Tab but it is possible to make changes to the trails page. Kearsten will report back about what technical additions/ edits are possible.
    c. Trail Guide Updates for Review: Did not discuss.

6. Other business:
    a. Hikes
        - May 2, 2026, NH Audubon hike at Contoocook River Park.
        - May 23, 2026, Spears Park Trails.

7. Staff Updates: None

8. Concord Trails Plan Chapters 4&5 discussion: Did not discuss.

9. Adjourn at 6:51. Fran Philippe made the motion, Rebecca Ross seconded the motion, unanimous.

Andrew Gould

Secretary