Concord Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

8/12/2026 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), Rebecca Ross and Judy Weatherby (Alternate),
Staff: Kearsten O'Brien (Senior Planner), Ron Klemarczyk (City Forester), Carl Matson (Trail Ranger).
Other: Kris Tardiff (Conservation Commission).
Absent: Max Hankard (Alternate), Jeff Lewis (Conservation Commission).
Guests: Jennifer Goodman, Rene Marro and Beth Marro

1. Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

2. Consent Agenda

    a. Approval of 7/8/2026 meeting minutes. Fran Phillipe made the motion. Rik Van Riel seconded the motion. Unanimous.

    b. City Forester Report: accepted
    Trail Ranger Report: accepted
    - Carl Matson has been trimming the Jim Hill Riverwalk, West End Farm Trail and Locke Road trails.
    - Knowlton Woods at Oak Hill- no issues to report
    - MRGT/ sunflower trail- no issues to report
    - Riley trails- no issues to report

3. New Business

    a. Jennifer Goodman proposed replacing the bench at the Winant Park viewpoint as a memorial to Annette Nielsen. The bench might read "In Memory of Annette Nielsen." Rebecca Ross made the motion to support the request for the installation of this new bench at the Winant Park vista. Andrew Gould seconded the motion. Unanimous.

    b. Rik Van Riel- Trail Stewards update
    - Vacancy for Mast Yard.

4. Old Business
    a. Marsh Loop trail discontinuance discussion: Concerns were mentioned because the trail is relatively close to the marsh. Nick Holmes suggested a possible reroute closer to Ghost Pipe trail. Concerns were brought up about the

safety of hikers using part of Ghost Pipe which typically has faster cyclists using it. The Trails Subcommittee will vote at the September meeting on the following options:

- Discontinuance of the trail
- A reroute of the trail
- Leaving the trail as is

b. Discussion about the proposed discontinuance of the West End Farm trail adjacent to 76 Currier Road: The Trails Subcommittee reviewed the "Criteria for Discontinuance of a Trail" document. Each bullet item was discussed relative to this section of the West End Farm trail. Mark Cheever made the motion to recommend not moving forward with the discontinuance of the trail but to consider mitigation strategies by investigating fencing opportunities for the parking lot and/or trail. Nick Holmes seconded the motion. Six members were in favor and one abstained.

c. West End Farm Trail Guide Description: did not discuss

5. Other business:
   a. Hikes
      - August 29, 2026, Bob to lead at Oak Hill

6. Staff Updates: None

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

8. Adjourn at 6:44. Fran Phillipe made the motion, Rebecca Ross seconded the motion, unanimous.

Andrew Gould

Secretary