

Mine Falls Park Trail Committee

Meeting Minutes — August 3, 2026

Call to Order

Steve — 7:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned

8:20 PM — Motion: Dave / Second: Natalie

Attendees: Kamal Masand, Dave Silva, Ben Davis, Sherry, Mike Silva, Justin Hoprich, Steve Kenney, Bryan Conant, Natalie Lucci, Andrew Lucci, Paula Lochhead.

Minutes Acceptance (June 1st meeting): Moved by Ben, seconded by Mike.

1. Trail & Erosion Maintenance

Everett Turnpike Bridge / Canal Trail Erosion

- A resident (Paul, 15 Seminole Drive) reported a deteriorating section of the tarred path near the northbound side of the Everett Turnpike bridge.
- The asphalt is falling in and underpinnings are gone due to runoff from the overpass, creating a potential safety hazard for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Proposed Fix:** Requires a backing/form, concrete patch, and top-layer asphalt filling. Committee members will inspect the area to assess scope.

2. Bridge Resurfacing & Drainage Improvements

Weirs / Mill Pond Bridges

- Current planks are laid parallel to the trail with minimal clearance and no crowning, causing water and debris to collect along the railings and rotting the wood.
- **Short-Term Actions:** Investigate raising the bottom clearance of the railings so debris can slough off.
- **Long-Term Redesign:**
 - Lay replacement wood perpendicular to the direction of travel to improve bicycle and stroller safety.
 - Incorporate small gaps between planks (like a residential deck) to allow proper water drainage.

7th Street Bridge

- Ongoing issue with rotting deck boards laid without proper spacing.
- The committee met with the engineering department (Hoyle Tanner) to design a long-term solution.
- Due to structural weight limits, engineering is evaluating lightweight metal decking options (e.g., expanded metal mesh).

3. Unauthorized Camping & Trail Structures

- Cove Trail Sign: Knocked over along with its cement base; needs re-installation.

Whipple Street Picnic Table

- Roof is severely deteriorated with holes and shingles rotting.
- **Action:** Remove the roof entirely. If the structure is compromised during removal, remove the entire table. (Handled by committee/city staff, not on Trail Day, due to safety concerns.)

Boat Ramp Picnic Table

- **Action (Trail Day Project):** Bolt 4x4 lumber across the tabletop in a “Z” pattern using lag bolts, washers, and lock nuts underneath. This preserves the table's function for park visitors while discouraging long-term occupation/sleeping.

Trail Day Projects — August 15th

Brush Cleanup, Painting, Trash Pickup, Tree Pickup near Soccer Field, Red Trail Roots Cleanup.

 **Facebook:** As per Natalie, we have 6,000 followers on Facebook.

 **Donations Request:** A running group's request for donations was discussed: gloves, water, and pickers.