

Claremont Conservation Commission

Minutes to Rail Trail Site Visit

May 18, 2017

Approved 6/15/2017

Present: Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Scott Magnuson, Steve Wood
Resident: Martha Adams

The site visit began at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center and followed the Rail Trail as far as the bridge spanning the Sugar River directly behind the Enterprise Car Rental.

The Commission looked at:

1. The surface of the trail
 - a. Who might be using the trail in the future, including motorized and non-motorized vehicles, pedestrians, bikers, equestrians
 - b. What is the best surface for all of those uses
2. Proximity to Monadnock Park
 - a. The distance is guessed at 100 feet between the trail and Monadnock Park and would be an additional area for adventure
3. Health of trees along the trail
 - a. There are several trees that need to come down. Some are leaning over the trail, some are dead and a liability, some need to come down to allow light in for smaller trees trying to grow
4. Monumentation on the trail
 - a. Notice was made of several monuments left behind from the railroad, also flagging that was installed on previous Commission visits
5. View to Ascutney
 - a. One area in particular begs for some tree trimming to allow for a better view of Mt. Ascutney
6. Access to the river
 - a. The area where swimming takes place needs some erosion control i.e.: steps to prevent injury
7. Invasive plants – Japanese Knotweed and Norway Maple and how to eradicate it
 - a. There is a large area that is covered with invasive knotweed; that needs to be removed
8. The possibility of a boardwalk from the trail to Monadnock Park
 - a. The area opposite the proposed new playground lends itself to a boardwalk/entrance to the park/trail
9. The possibility of creating a meandering trail between the trail and Monadnock Park
 - a. There is a large area between the Park and the trail that would make a great path for visitors to check out the plant life that abounds in that area. Small signs identifying the plant life would provide a great area for science field trips for the Claremont Middle School