

Loudon Trails Subcommittee
Monday, June 22, 2026 – 4 PM
Charlie's Barn, 29 South Village Road, Loudon, NH 03307

Meeting Minutes

Attendees	
Steve Gallier	Sandy Blanchard
Martha Butterfield	John Mesick
Steve Smith	Gene Kraus
Laura Vincent	Lynda Caine
Kevin Healy	

Central NH Regional Planning Commission Staff: Mike Tardiff

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Meeting convened shortly after 4:00 PM

2. Review 4/27/26 Meeting Minutes

- The April 27 minutes were reviewed and approved without objection

3. Town Office Appointment Papers

- Members whose names appear on the appointment list were reminded to visit the Town Office to sign their paperwork. Some members noted needing to visit both the Selectmen's Office and the Clerk's Office.

4. N'Dakinna

- A 10-inch tree is down across the blue trail near the yellow junction and will require more than loppers to remove.
- Volunteers cleared hazardous branches on the white trail and brushed out the parking entrance to improve sightlines for vehicles.
- Multiple wind-related treefalls were noted after recent storms

5. Kirby Tract Wood Chipping Discussion

- The group discussed applying wood chips to suppress ferns and regrowth.
- Logistical challenges include transporting chips across bridges and narrow access points.
- Additional minor tree removals and trail widening were completed using folding saws and hand tools.
- Ideas included coordinating with local chipping crews, delivering chips to accessible locations, and using wheelbarrows for distribution.
- Work will require dry conditions and a coordinated volunteer crew.

6. Kenney Road / Sabbatus (Sebattis) Trail, Work Summary

- A work party (Steve, Bob Lyon, Martha, Maris Wolfsy, and others) spent three hours advancing the new trail. Remaining tasks include clearing soft sections, cutting small trees, and installing markers or stakes where trees are absent.
- A volunteer tested the switchback by bike and reported that the tread remains soft.
 - o Next Steps for Kenney Road Trail:
 - o A dry-day work party with 3–4 volunteers will be scheduled to finish clearing, install stakes, and remove remaining trees.
 - o John and another member have prepared stakes for installation.
 - o Tasks include finishing tread work, consolidating soft sections, and marking areas lacking trees.
 - o Approximately 8–9 small square 2x2 posts are available for installation along the new trail.
 - o Post Installation Method: A cordless drill with a bulb auger will be used to drill two-foot-deep post holes. If bedrock is encountered, the auger allows quick relocation to another spot.

- o The trail officially begins at the kiosk, not the old bus location.
- o The clearcut area needs definition; volunteers plan to rake it into a single-track and remove woody debris.
- o Overhanging branches will be trimmed.
- o Ticks are common on-site; early removal was recommended.
- **Bridge Work:** Dana completed and stained a bridge; the group praised the quality of the work.
- **Parking and Trailhead Access:** Parking at the kiosk accommodates 3–5 cars, with additional space near the Magic School Bus location. Directions were reviewed for volunteers unfamiliar with the site.
- The group agreed to use orange blazes for the new trail to distinguish it from yellow-blazed routes. Orange paint is believed to be available.
- **Trail Naming:** The proposed name is Sabattus Trails, with Sebattis/Sabbatist variants discussed. Members recommended checking with local descendants (e.g., Alan Kenny) before finalizing the name. Future northern expansion may warrant revisiting the name.
- Members suggested adding the trail to Trailforks and AllTrails once work is complete.
- **GPS Data and Mapping:** A GPS file exists and was previously shared with Matt. A new CNHRPC intern will create a public-facing map. The group must confirm where the GPS file is stored.
- **Nearby 50-Acre Town Parcel:** A town-owned parcel near Kenney Road may support a future trail. Initial walks show limited suitable terrain except for a ridge that could support an out-and-back or loop. This is not a priority until the current trail is complete.
- **Land Access and Trespass Concerns:** Some nearby lanes have unclear ownership and posted signs. Right-of-way and property boundaries must be confirmed before establishing connections. The group agreed to avoid routing that could cause disputes.
- **Alternate Loop Access:** A parcel offered to a nephew complicates creation of an alternate loop; permission would be required. Parking near the mother's old house is limited and impractical in winter.
- **Epps Mill Maintenance:** Vegetation near the end of the trail needs weed-whacking to reduce tick exposure. Volunteers will arrange a work session.

7. Lovejoy Boardwalk Repairs

- Broken boards were replaced and trimming improved wetland views.
- Martha maintains several small, unmarked side trails connecting to the Orange Trail.
- Spruce cross-pieces are showing rot after 7–8 years.
- The committee should plan for future replacement and consult Bob Lyon and other experienced builders.
- Composite decking (e.g., Trex) was proposed as a durable alternative.
A volunteer may have access to donated planks.
Span and support spacing must be evaluated before committing.
- The property contains at least 22 small wet-area bridges (8–12 ft).
- Alternatives such as stone stepping or bog bridging were discussed.

8. Recreation Trail

- Light cleanup was completed; some vegetation encroachment will require pruning. Steve will continue monitoring.

9. Maxfield Town Forest, Trail Exploration

- The town owns 184 acres adjacent to Hoyt Road Marsh.
- A walk found high, dry terrain with scenic viewpoints and cellar holes.
- Landowner Dan Dockham is willing to sign an agreement allowing a foot trail adjacent to the snowmobile route.
- Fish & Game wildlife impact maps and Trails for People and Wildlife overlays should be reviewed.

- A 10–12 ft bog bridge will be needed.
- Fish & Game is not opposed to a crossing on the 14-acre state parcel if a permit is submitted (approx. 3-month process).
- Formal submission can be deferred up to two years.
- Maxfield / Flag Road Access
 - o Ownership and boundaries must be verified before developing new routes.
 - o Keep Out signs were observed.
 - o Some parcels lie in a different town, requiring jurisdictional review.
 - o Existing historic features (cellar holes, cemetery, Maxfield Trail box) suggest the trail exists but is under-promoted.
- Abbott and Maxfield Cemeteries
 - o Abbott Cemetery on state land needs cleanup; permission can be obtained from Fish & Game.
 - o Maxfield monument cemetery maintenance responsibility needs clarification.
 - o The fire chief may have jurisdiction over cemetery work.
- Parking and Neighbor Relations
 - o Parking remains the primary limiting factor for public access.
 - o Neighbors maintain roadside areas and may react negatively to increased traffic.
 - o The committee agreed to approach neighbors politely before making changes.
 - o Past selectmen discussions about parking should be reviewed.
 - o Small informal site walks were recommended before broader promotion.
 - o Parking and neighbor acceptance must be resolved before trail layout decisions.
 - o Past projects benefited from proactive neighbor communication.

10. Financials

- No recent purchases reported.
- Members were asked to submit volunteer hours.

11. Other Business

- The group discussed the rogue/fire tool, useful for bench cutting, digging, chopping roots, and cutting blueberry brush. It is available online but difficult to find locally.

12. Meeting Closure

- The meeting concluded after a productive and spirited discussion. The meeting record will be posted on the town or committee website

13. Next Meeting Date:

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM