

**MALABAR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00 PM**

This meeting of the Malabar Trails and Greenways Committee was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE:**

Meeting called to order at 6:10 P.M. Prayer and Pledge led by Chair Thompson.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

CHAIR:	DREW THOMPSON
VICE-CHAIR:	MURRAY HANN
BOARD MEMBERS:	ANNELIE HARVEY
	BOB WILBUR
	BARBARA CAMERON
ALTERNATES:	MARK GUNTER
GRANT/VALKARIA LIASON:	CRAIG SMITH – Arrived at 6:14
BOARD SECRETARY:	RICHARD KOHLER

**3. SWEARING IN RETURNING COMMITTEE MEMBER – CM HANN**

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 3a

Discussion: Chair asked CM Hann to step to the podium and read the oath. CM Hann read and signed his oath.

**4. APPOINT CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

**MOTION: CM Hann/CM Cameron move to appoint CM Thompson as the Chair.**

**VOTE: 5-0 (All Ayes)**

**MOTION: CM Cameron/CM Thompson move to appoint CM as the Vice-Chair**

**VOTE: 5-0 (All Ayes)**

- 5. Additions/Deletions/Changes-** CM Thompson requests discussion on the signage at the crossings of Briar Creek Blvd. An HOA request was made for signage at the crossing warning bikers and hikers that they will be crossing a road. VC Hann states he has been frustrated by signs that tell both sides to stop. We should get signs telling bikers to yield to cars. Secretary Kohler suggests drafting a sign and having it for review at the next meeting. CM Gunter suggests contacting OMBA to see what their road crossing signs are. Liaison Smith states he will check when he goes in early December and report back at the next meeting.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**6.a. Regular Trails and Greenways Committee Mtg Minutes of 10/09/2023.**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended by CM Hann/CM Cameron.**

Discussion: Chair Thompson notes a minor correction under 7.c.

**All Ayes: Carried 5-0.**

- 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

- 8. ACTION ITEMS:** None.

- 9. DISCUSSION**

**a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions**

Chair Thompson showed the committee photos of signs installed by VC Hann in Cameron Preserve. He removed the old maps and used the supports to install the new ones. VC Hann also stated he installed one of the Cameron Boundary signs. He installed some of the on-trail signs under the welcome signs. He states that the reflectiveness of the signs makes the maps hard to read at night. Chair Thompson asks if there is a weatherproof sticker we can print the QR code on? VC Hann states the BMBA uses vinyl stickers that would work. Chair Thompson asks if VC Hann can print some? VC Hann states he believes he can accomplish that. Chair states he plans to put up the Cameron Preserve Boundary signs shortly. VC Hann states he is concerned about the tape previously put up falling. Chair asks if there are any trees down or safety hazards? VC Hann states he rode the trails yesterday and that there are none.

**b. MSS Restoration Plan Observations and Concerns**

Chair asks if there are any concerns about the project? He observed that there hasn't been much activity. Liaison Smith states the South area has been closed since they burned it. It appears that there is currently no work going on. CM Gunter states he has recently ridden in the area, and there are ways to ride while staying on open trails. He regularly rides the area to see the eagle's nest. He is happy to inform the Committee that the eagle is back. Chair states he shared the photos of the nest with his HOA and the residents were horrified. Chair also discussed the upcoming REAC EELs meeting which will plan the management plan for Jordan and Malabar Scrub. The changes in Jordan include the inclusion of a hardened surface trail. They also plan to clarify their E-Bike regulations, including not allowing one-wheelers. Liaison Smith states he has noted the one-wheeler community has been self-policing and have become great users. VC Hann also notes the map showing the removal of firebreaks as trails from the official maps. He is concerned because these are used as trails by the equestrian community. Chair asks if equestrians using the firebreaks will still be allowed? CM Wilbur states removing them from the map won't stop people from using them. VC Hann also discussed the trail relocations approved in the conflict assessment. He states the area would be better if they keep the area above the firebreak as is, and wind a trail through it. The current plan is to remove trees and put the trail on the property line. He also discussed the rerouting of the "Dead Bike" trail along the turkey creek basin. He is very disappointed that the oldest trail and best trail will be closed or rerouted. Chair asks if the new plan includes a passing under the bridge. VC Hann states yes. He did acknowledge that there would be a new trail included on the south side of the creek, and a new bridge to recross the creek. He states he fears that the County is doing the work in that area to force the Town to cut trees in Cameron Preserve. He also discussed the changes in Jordan Scrub, most notably the removal of firebreaks from the trail maps. Chair also states that he has contacted the plant manager of the L3Harris about potential future collaboration of projects in Jordan Scrub. VC Hann states that Goat Creek is navigable up to the county property. Chair states if there were ever a FIND grant to be pursued, we would have to communicate with Council and the County. VC Hann states we could begin by setting up a meeting with Harris. They have a ROW for potential future access from the South of their property.

**c. Cameron Preserve**

Chair asks for information on the site visit. Secretary Kohler states he and VC Hann met three Forestry Officials on site at Cameron Preserve. We walked a majority of the perimeter and discussed the potential rejuvenation on the firebreaks. When discussing the firebreaks and burn patterns, we were informed any burn area would have to be surrounded by firebreaks. Staff has developed a proposed firebreak plan for the committees review. Also, Forestry informed us that they have surplus discs for sale. Staff has communicated with FD about the possibility of them maintaining the firebreaks once they have been refurbished. They responded favorably. VC Hann states he likes the pictured maps. He would like to better refine the specifications of the mechanical reduction. He suggests working on Zone 4 first, leaving all oak trees, removing all sand pines, and staying away from trails. He also noted that the firebreaks are utilized by equestrians. We may want to cut a new trail that follows the firebreak. We should be meticulous in our specifications. Chair states his goal is to maintain Cameron in a cyclical habitat. VC Hann also states that he would like to ensure the northern boundary is protected. CM Cameron asks if FCT should be contacted? Secretary Kohler states he has contacted them, and they are on board with this proposal. VC Hann states he can make some modifications to the presented firebreak plan and provide specifications on the type of mechanical reduction. CM Gunter asks if we should mark trees to be saved? VC Hann suggests requesting the firebreaks all be cut and reduce zone 3 and 4. Chair states he feels the time is correct to do this project. Within this year, the project will cost the Town no money, and provide positive direction.

**MOTION: CM Hann/CM Cameron to recommend staff continue developing a proposal with Forestry to recut firebreaks, perform some mechanical reduction, and controlled burns in designated zones of Cameron Preserve, with the final proposal going before Council for final approval.**

**VOTE: ALL AYES (5-0)**

**d. Eagles Nest Trailhead**

Chair states that the key thing for equestrian use at ENT would be providing a water source. Staff has developed quotes for a 4" well to provide drinking water for equestrian users, as well as a fire prevention use. He has discussed having 2 static tanks to fill tanker trucks with members of the Fire Department. Theoretically, the artesian well would refill the static tanks on its own. He feels this would provide the best access for fire prevention without having electricity on-site. They could also be used for irrigation and equestrian drinking water. VC Hann states he believes that an artesian well pulls 4-500 gallons per minute. If we add a pump, that could increase. Chair states the FD was asked and stated it would be sufficient. Secretary Kohler states staff has contacted three local vendors for quotes and had two responses. Chair states he believes this is a great move. Liaison Smith suggests using a tank similar to the one at the Grapefruit Trails. Chair states we would need assistance from the FD in creating the right manifold. We would need a standard hook up for a garden hose. We will also confirm that the site is sufficient for truck travel. CM Gunter asks if we know where the well is going to go? Do we need to do any preliminary work to prepare for this? VC Hann states he believes the well is going in one of the islands created by the parking lot. He suggests putting it towards the north of the island. CM Cameron states she feels we have plenty of materials for side projects, and that this is the most important thing we can do.

**MOTION: CM Cameron/CM Harvey to recommend to Council the purchase of a 4" artesian well at Eagles Nest Trailhead using the quote provided by Heidi Kruger using the Trails and Greenways Committee designated funds.**

**VOTE: ALL AYES (5-0)**

**e. Next Field Event – TBD**

Chair states that he and CM Gunter will hang "Cameron Preserve Boundary" signs soon.

**8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Board Member Comments:** CM Harvey states she regrets to inform the Committee she plans to resign from her position.

CM Wilbur states again he would like to have the line of sight cleared at Marie Street and Malabar Rd.

CM Gunter asks if there is a priority list of our projects? VC Hann states our next major project will be the fence line at ENT.

CM Harvey states she will miss this group and appreciate all of its hard work.

Chair states he would like to suggest that the Planning and Zoning Board look at creating a Conservation Zoning to apply to Cameron Preserve, the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, Jordan Sanctuary and

**MOTION: CM Hann/ CM Wilbur to request Council direct PZ to investigate adding a conservation zoning designation to be applied to current Conservation Lands.**

**Vote: All Ayes (5-0)**

**b. Staff Reports:** Secretary Kohler informed the Committee that Town Attorney Bohne requested that all Committees and Boards be reminded to only discuss items that have been voted to be placed on the agenda at the beginning of each meeting.

He also informed the Committee of a future Council agenda item discussing the possibility of combining the Trails and Greenways Committee and the Parks and Recreation Board. He explained that this was due to the Parks and Recreation Board having multiple vacancies, and limited meeting availability. CM Wilbur states he believes this committee is more effective as a stand alone. Chair reiterates he prefers to report to the Parks Board, as opposed to being joined with them. He also expressed concern that one of the 11 trail Towns in Florida could potentially be left without a Trails Committee.

**c. New Business:**

- Next Regular Meeting- December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**9. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss;

**MOTION: HANN/HARVEY to adjourn.** Vote: All Ayes. The meeting adjourned 8:21 PM.

BY:

  
Drew Thompson, Chair

12/11/2023

Date Approved: as presented:



Richard W. Kohler, Board Secretary