Sub-committee Members Present:

- Vern Beausoleil
- Sarah Szczebak
- Eric Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

The minutes of the meeting on November 12, 2019 were reviewed. The committee voted to accept the minutes, and they were approved unanimously. Sarah Szczebak will send the final minutes to Lori Tollman and Heidi Leech.

Trail maintenance work has been slow over the winter. Vern Beausoleil has done a little cleanup at Creaser Park and at Laidlaw since the last sub-committee meeting. Eric Thomas has completed some cleanup on Depot Road.

The disc golf course is under construction at Creaser Park and is anticipated to be completed in the spring. Some trimming is needed around the pond, which may be undertaken with volunteers.

Eric Thomas led a walk at Williams Preserve. Attendance was low, but the walk was successful. The trail at Williams Preserve needs to be reblazed so that the entire trail is on town-owned property. Volunteers are need to clear and blaze the new trail.

Open space markers are in place on the Rose property. There was a discussion of the Williams Preserve, the Rose property, the Couch property (owned by Joshua’s Trust), and the Fred White property and the possibility for connectivity of up to 200 acres.

Outreach and forms of communication were discussed. 151 people are now following the Facebook page of the sub-committee. Future cleanup events and guided walks will be set up as Facebook events (instead of just being posted on Facebook) so it will be easier to gauge interest and notify those who are interested in case of cancellation due to inclement weather.

The next walk will be on February 15th at Thornton Brook Preserve.

Sarah Szczebak will track down a copy of a brochure published by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection titled A Primer for Connecticut Woodland Owners. The sub-committee may have a presentation for owners of forest lands at some point in the future.
The sub-committee has been approached about maintaining a plot in the community garden at Creaser Park. The sub-committee may want to grow plants that can then be transplanted to other areas in town once the plants are more mature. This could be a good project for the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

Joshua's Trust has recently acquired the Schmid property on Flanders and Flanders River Road in south Coventry. The Town will provide a dumpster in the Spring so the Trust's organized volunteer crew can clean up debris piles left on the property over the years. This property has long frontage along the Willimantic River and an interesting wetland.

There was a brief update on the condition of the tools that the committee has purchased for trail maintenance. The chainsaw has been repaired and is now in good working order.

Volunteers will be needed for a light cleanup of the rain garden at town hall. Eric Thomas explained what a rain garden is and how it works.

The next meeting will be on April 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Szczebak
Secretary