

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2015
DRAFT

Members Present: Sue Smith, Mark Dillenbeck, Jenny Cole, Dorothy Hill, Bob Hyams

Public Comment: None

Sue brought back materials from the Environmental Summit at the ECHO Center on March 20-21. As part of a demonstration project, there is the possibility of improving one or more areas in the park where water drains into streams from drainage ditches.

Mark advised the Committee that the Emerald Ash Borer is in Quebec and will reach Vermont in a few years. The Park Committee (and the Town) should be prepared to budget money for tree-cutting and removal. The insect affects all types of ash. There was discussion of strategies to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive insects.

Minutes: The February 25 Minutes were approved with no changes.

The group discussed Committee member roles and responsibilities. Jenny would like to step down as co-chair. Mark may be interested in chairmanship later in the year. Bob volunteered to prepare the meeting minutes. Sue will prepare agendas. Mark will post information on Front Porch Forum. For now, Jenny will continue to be co-chair with Sue.

Varney Farm/Tim Hunt: Mark has set up a meeting with Tim at the Varney farm (weather permitting) for April 9 from 5-7. The POC agenda for the upcoming meeting is as follows:

1. Maintaining Town easement for park access and associated parking (A fallback easement area has been identified by the Vermont Land Trust.)
2. Agricultural access
3. Damage to park property from recent septic work
4. Location of property lines

Mark will contact Tim about discussion items.

Route 7 mowing and permit application to VTrans

Junior can mow for \$300-400 for mowing ROW and margin between ROW and managed fields. We anticipate mowing 1-2 times/season. This will require the Town to apply for a permit with VTrans. Jenny will complete the application form for the Selectboard

meeting on April 27. Marty Illick is working on coordinating efforts between the State of Vermont/VTrans and Charlotte for work done by the Town in State rights-of-way.

Trail Brochure: Comments and corrections were sent by Matt Krasnow by e-mail. Committee members suggested additional wording changes. Jenny will continue to incorporate comments into the proposed text.

Ag Lease Renewal: All recommendations and documents have been forwarded to Dean. The Select Board is scheduled to take up this issue on April 27. Sue suggested we come up with a presentation on progress with agricultural management.

Management Plan Update: Sue proposed we hold off on discussing the update with the Select Board until a later date.

Action: Sue will clarify with Dean the agenda for upcoming Select Board meeting on April 27

Game of Logging: We are planning to offer levels 1, 2 and 3. Northeast Woodland Training will be conducting the workshops. Potential dates are September 19, 26 and October 31. The Committee supports Jenny's effort to schedule the courses. We will seek Select Board approval for the contract with Northeast Woodland Training.

Contractor for Cutting Hazard Trees: Jessie had offered to look into this. Further discussion was deferred until she is back.

Spring Volunteer Days: Mark will post particulars on FpF

- Earth Day (4/22): Sue will plan an event.
- Green-up Day (5/2): Volunteer work day to focus on removal of old farm machinery parts and other debris from hedgerows.
- Wildflower Walk: Sue has spoken with Colleen Armstrong about leading the walk. May 16 was a suggested date. Date TBD

Churchhill Landscapes Invoice: Jenny received an updated detailed invoice for invasive control work performed this winter. We had budgeted \$1500, the invoice totaled \$2000 (showing a 'discount' of \$1900). Committee members unanimously approved payment of invoice.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.