

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

CHARLOTTE PARK AND WILDLIFE REFUGE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

5:30 PM

CHARLOTTE PARK AND WILDLIFE REFUGE – THORP BARN ENTRANCE

Discussion of agenda items was out of order, but appears here as published.

New Committee member

Cathy Marshall

Committee members present at meeting: Jessie Bradley, Jenny Cole, Julian Kulski, Braxton Robbason, Greg Smith, Sue Smith

Minutes

Minutes were not available.

Wild parsnip removal - update and thoughts for next year

Jenny marked the areas where parsnip was removed on a map so the areas can be checked next year. Julian, Andrew and Jenny worked on hand-pulling parsnip. Junior Lewis was responsible for mowing along Rt. 7 in the last week of June.

Phragmites - treatment in late August-September

Update permit and hire pesticide applicator

Sue will contact Bob Hyams about herbicide treatment of the phragmites. There are some new patches near Rt. 7 in the riparian buffer. Jenny will check to see if the permit from the State to apply herbicide in the wetland will require changes.

August brush-hogging list

Unit D along edges and around native shrubs, trees and wetland plants

Along hedgerows and trail edges

Unit N – southern section and "trail" through northwest meadow and up the hill

Area behind house north of Thorp Barn (Recheck park boundary and coordinate management with neighbors.)

Snowdrift Lane "chute"

Other

Areas needing brush-hogging, contractors, and compliance with the Town's purchasing policy were discussed. Jessie will contact James Bell, Adam Dantzcher and Chris Mack and will coordinate the work. A motion was made and passed to approve the use of park budget funds for the brush-hogging.

There are some very large trees in the “chute.” Julian would like to clear invasive plants around one fine tree. The trees should be identified and if any of them are ash, be considered for treatment for emerald ash borer.

Jessie will help identify the location of the park boundary with the property just north of the Thorp Barn. Jenny will check the property maps at the Town Offices. A discussion with the neighbors on management will happen at a later date.

Fall project planning - volunteer days and update on Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps project will probably be in October or November. Sue will provide an update at a future meeting. This will involve work by VYCC staff and park volunteers.

Hay bales and agricultural lease

There were no updates on the removal of the old hay bales or meeting with Dylan Preston. During the meeting, Jessie sent Dylan a text message. She and Julian will communicate with him about removal of the bales. Julian will contact Andrew to see if he has spoken with Dylan about meeting.

Repair of upper bridge on Turkey Lane, posting park land

Jessie and Jeffrey will take a look at the bridge to see what it needs.

ATVs in the park

People have been driving ATVs through the park. Denise Kahm, who lives on Route 7, has seen them in recent days and is concerned about the safety of her children walking in the park. Jenny spoke to two people who drove in from the area of Route 7. Braxton will contact Denise to discuss the issue with her.

Permission form for people requesting to use the Route 7 entrance

Due to lack of time, discussion of this item was left for a future meeting.

Story Walk

This was added to the agenda. The walk has gone well, but Committee members felt there should be an end date - and agreed that it will be allowed to remain in the park until the beginning of the school year, September 8.

Other

It was decided that during the COVID pandemic, there will be no sign-in at the kiosk. Greg will work on a laminated sign with park contact information for people wishing to report problems, ask questions or submit comments.

Schedule next meeting

The Committee scheduled the next meeting: Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 pm at the park.