

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
4:30 p.m.
at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge**

Members present: Jessie Bradley, Jenny Cole, Mark Dillenbeck, Dorothy Hill, Sue Smith

Mark provided an update on the elm tree grant. He spoke with a Nature Conservancy expert who recommended planting in early spring, purchasing trees 5' or taller to minimize deer browse, using different varieties of disease resistant trees, avoiding purchasing where trees have come from an unknown source or have not shown to be resistant, and using herbicide around trees. The plan is to use the \$1500 to purchase trees. Planting will be done by volunteers. Committee members discussed tree locations, use of tree guards and mulch. Mark will send an e-mail to the Committee to schedule a day for staking tree locations. Along trails in Units D and N, and by the second overlook bench on Roberts Way were suggested locations.

A Park Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th at 5:00 to discuss the budget for 2017-18. The Park budget is on the Selectboard agenda on October 24.

Fall projects

Jessie will contact Ward Preston for a cost estimate for replacing bog bridges by the large oak tree.

Sue and Jenny would like to start Wednesday morning work sessions starting the first week in October. A riparian buffer work day was scheduled for the morning of October 22. Grass will be cut around shrubs and mulch applied. Any invasive plants will be cut and treated. Dorothy and Jenny offered DR trimmers. Sue will send an e-mail about work days to the Park volunteers.

There is no new information about "Ahead of the Storm" erosion control projects. This will be put on hold until next year. Logs and stone for the project will be saved from fall work.

Brush-hogging was discussed. Suggestions were made for fall work: sections in Unit D, field south of trail and trail edges in Unit N, the western edge of the Overlook, near the hedgerow south of Snowdrift Lane, and other work areas. Jenny will call contractors for types of mowers and rates.

Junior Lewis purchased gravel with last year's budget. This is available for gravel trail improvement and repair. Committee members suggested areas in need of gravel: soft sections of the Byington Trail by the bobolink field, at the top of Roberts Way, sections of the Thorp Trail and around benches. Jessie said that the side trail near the oak tree gets a lot of use, and that brush should be cut back and a bridge placed over the drainage ditch.

Jessie will take care of posting Park land before hunting season. Dorothy still has paper for the nature trail guides.

Mark will flag weak, unhealthy ash trees. It is recommended that the trees be removed to discourage infestation by the emerald ash borer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.