

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Charlotte Library**

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

**Others:** Clark Hinsdale III

**Meeting with Clark Hinsdale regarding plans for future use of Park agricultural fields**

Clark discussed progress and planning for the future use of the Nordic Farm since Mike LaClair declared bankruptcy. Clark purchased the farming equipment in late November and the dairy farm is still going, run temporarily by Michelle and Sid Claflin. The number of dairy farms in Vermont continues to drop—even organic dairy farms are not making money. Clark discussed options for more diversified farming at the Nordic Farms, and he feels it would be beneficial to get organic certification for the park land. There have been no chemicals used on the fields, making it possible to become certified after May 1. The Park Oversight Committee has used herbicide on cut stumps to control invasive plants in the park. Clark will look into whether or not this use is incompatible with organic certification. There was discussion of managing the fields to protect field-nesting birds. Jessie reported that earlier recommendations for early mowing have not worked well. Birds do not return if nests are disturbed and birds do not always choose fields designated for protection. She would like to keep the discussion open about a more flexibility lease agreement to protect birds. Route 7 access to the park was discussed. The Metropolous family has purchased the Varney Farm. Evan Metropolous can meet with the Park Committee in April to discuss access and other issues.

We have not yet met with Bob Haven to discuss bee hives in the park. Clark had no objection to this use.

**Approve minutes from December 12, 2017 meeting**

The minutes were approved with no corrections. (Motion by Jessie, seconded by Dorothy)

**Park Management Plan – discuss remaining work**

The work was discussed briefly. Jenny will send a 5/7/17 draft to Committee members.

**Updates:**

**Park projects**

**Nature Connection Guide**

Duncan Murdock e-mailed that he would like to host a Nature Mindfulness “Winter Embrace Walk” in the park on February 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Jenny will contact Greg to see if he worked on the application process

for people planning events at the park. If not, we could use something similar to the Recreation Commission process.

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.