

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2017**  
**5:15 p.m.**  
**at the Charlotte Town Hall**

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

**Others:** Greg Smith

**Approval of minutes**

Mark made a motion (seconded by Sue) to approve minutes from 2016 meetings on May 26, June 27, July 20, November 15 and December 7. The motion was passed. (Vote 4-0)

**Meet potential new member, Greg Smith**

Greg spoke about his background and interest in serving on the Park Oversight Committee as Recreation Commission representative. His appointment will be at a future Selectboard meeting. Park Committee members will attend in support.

**Quotes for hedgerow work – choose contractor**

Project specifications were sent to four contractors. Two quotes were received. They included Church Hill Landscapes: \$2000, and Chris's Lawncare & Mini Excavating: \$2400. Chris Fortin proposed chipping brush instead of burning brush piles. Mark made a motion, seconded by Dorothy to go with the lower quote and have the work done by Church Hill Landscapes. Committee members expressed interest in the use of a wood chipper in future projects. The motion was passed 5-0. Jenny was asked to check with Church Hill Landscapes to see whether they do chipping, and if so, whether this would increase the cost.

**Elm tree grant update**

Mark reported that he has had difficulty finding more than one variety, but with the help of Horsford Nursery, 20 whips are on order for planting in April. They are about 8' in height. There will be enough money left over for tree guards (5'), mulch and watering. Mark contacted Deedle Kiley about watering. He may be able to help. Jessie suggested that this could be put in the specs for the Town mowing contract.

Committee members decided to meet on Saturday, January 28, 10:00 at the Thorp Barn to flag locations for tree planting.

**Park Management Plan**

Jessie suggested starting with meadowland management and organizing the plan by units. She spoke with Dean about formatting the working document, but he is unable to do this. Mark volunteered to take on the task, and will post the document on the Town website. There was discussion of agricultural uses. All fields are now in permanent hay. While we may want to keep

options open, keeping the land in hay has been a success. Planting of corn and pasturing livestock have caused erosion and trail damage. Access to fields for recreation (especially the Overlook where federal funds for recreation were used) is also important. There was interest in consulting with agricultural experts. Committee members reviewed a list of Management Plan assignments from the July meeting. Sue will work on riparian buffers. Jenny will work on hedgerows.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.