

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge**  
**Oversight Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jessie Bradley, Jenny Cole, Mark Dillenbeck, Larry Hamilton, Dorothy Hill, Bob Hyams, Sue Smith

**Others:** Mike LaClair

**Park Agricultural Lease**

Mike LaClair from Nordic Holsteins, LLC attended the meeting to discuss nutrient management and plans for use of the park agricultural fields. He presented print-outs that included soil tests and recommendations for manure and fertilizer application. Mike plans to do no-till seeding on the Overlook field. He answered Park Committee members' questions about mowing schedules, and explained that cutting by the first week in June and a second cut 30-40 days later provides the best quality hay for dairy.

Last year, bobolinks were seen early in the season in Units G and F. The birds did not return after the first cut, even though the field was mowed early, as recommended for grassland bird management. After discussion, Mike and Park Committee members agreed that the 13 acres west of the trail in Units G and F would be mowed after August 1, and that the annual lease payment should be adjusted to reflect the loss of the first cut and nutrient value in second cut.

The agricultural lease expires at the end of 2015, with an option for a 5-year renewal to the current lease-holder. The Committee has been very happy with the improvements made to the agricultural fields during the current lease, and members felt it would be good to renew the lease soon, rather than waiting until later in the year. Mike agreed to contact Clark Hinsdale III to ask him to submit a letter to the Selectboard requesting renewal. Jenny will draft a summary of farm uses for 2015 that includes the recommendations for Units G and F.

Mike expressed concern about loss of the Varney Farm access to fields in the northern part of the park and damage to the recently seeded hay field during the installation of the Varney Farm wastewater system. A meeting scheduled for early January with Tim Hunt was cancelled. Mark will contact him to reschedule. Items to discuss include concerns raised by the Park Committee in its December 15 letter, access to the park, and damage to the farm field.

A question was raised about the appointment of a different Selectboard member to serve as liaison to the Park Committee. Jessie will call Matt Krasnow to discuss the issue.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> were approved. (Motion by Mark, seconded by Dorothy) Dorothy will be taking care of park maps. Jenny will purchase paper for the nature trail brochures.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.