

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
5:30 p.m.
Charlotte Town Hall

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

Others: Frances Foster

Frances came to the meeting to discuss the idea of the Charlotte Land Trust hosting a scavenger hunt at the park this spring in late May or June (Saturday, with Sunday as a rain day). The goal is to bring families to the park and raise awareness about land conservation. Frances will seek volunteers to help with the event. Several ideas and potential volunteers were discussed. Jenny will send park maps to Frances. Frances will get back to the Park Committee with dates and details.

Project Updates

James Bell completed the brush and tree cutting work near the hedgerow south of Meg Berlin's property. This is the location of the Ahead of the Storm site 1 erosion control project. The cost for the work was \$500.

Three contractors have been contacted about the clearing in the hedgerow west of the overlook with Larry's benches. The hedgerow is mostly honeysuckle, buckthorn and grape vines, with a few butternut trees and native shrubs. James Bell and Church Hill Landscapes sent proposals. Chris Fortin looked at the hedgerow but did not provide a quote. The Committee decided to have Church Hill Landscapes do the work for \$1500. It is likely that Church Hill will donate time to complete the job. The Committee discussed replanting the hedgerow with native shrubs and trees.

Volunteer Days

There was discussion of work days to cut and treat stumps, starting with the hedgerow south of Snowdrift Lane. Dorothy would like to help. She and Mark expressed interest in becoming State certified pesticide applicators. It is very helpful to have certified people on the Committee for invasive plant clearing work. Dorothy will contact the State. Sue reported that Gary Small would like to volunteer in the park. He has tools and experience, and enjoys working outdoors.

Charlotte Central School may want to bring students to the park on Arbor Day. Sue spoke with Abby Foulk about ideas for projects or park work. Committee members discussed other options for Arbor Day, Earth Day and Green Up Day.

Park Management Plan

Work on the Management Plan was discussed. Sue and Jenny will complete a draft for section D: *Landscape Management Plan and Maintenance Standards* and will e-mail it to Committee members for comments. Other sections of the Plan were briefly discussed.

Honeybees at the Park

Committee members discussed bee hives at the park, responding to a request by Bob Haven to put his hives there. Rose Paul from the Nature Conservancy provided several articles indicating that honeybees would compete with wild bees and would not be beneficial. Based on this information, Committee members were disinclined to allow bee hives in the park at this time. Jenny will contact Bob Haven.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 11, 2018 meeting were approved.

Other Updates

Duncan Murdoch's application for use of the park for nature mindfulness walks was approved by the Selectboard on February 12.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.