

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge**  
**Oversight Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jessie Bradley, Jenny Cole, Bob Hyams, Sue Smith

**Approval of minutes from the January 28 meeting**

The January minutes were approved with no changes. (Motion by Jessie, seconded by Bob)

**Update on meeting with Tim Hunt**

Tim is out of town until mid-March. The Park Committee will wait for further updates from Mark Dillenbeck regarding the meeting date. Committee members listed areas of concern to be discussed at the meeting.

1. “We care about the park”
2. Location of the property line
3. The Town’s right-of-way for park access
4. Damage to the farm field from construction of the Varney Farm wastewater system
5. Maintaining an agricultural access

**Approval of memo to the Selectboard regarding use of agricultural units in 2015**

The draft memo was approved with the addition of wording in the first paragraph summarizing the purpose of the memo—to expedite the renewal of the lease and reduce the lease payment by \$390. Jenny will revise the draft and send it to the Selectboard along with a map showing park units. Clark Hinsdale submitted a letter to the Selectboard requesting renewal of the agricultural lease.

**Discuss Route 7 mowing and permit application to VTrans**

The Committee agreed that mowing along Route 7 should be done the first week in July by Junior Lewis, so that wild parsnip can be cut early. The group also agreed that, to prevent seed from being carried in from surrounding areas during mowing, the park land should be a no-mow area for Vtrans. Jenny will fill out the paperwork and see that it is submitted to the State either by the Park Committee or Selectboard.

**Review/approve revised trail brochure**

The Committee reviewed a draft of a revised Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge trail brochure. “Snowdrift Lane” was removed at Dorothy Hill’s request. Jessie suggested adding a line to show the access easement at the Varney Farm, to serve as a reminder that it exists for future use. There was discussion of park closing time and the time the gate is locked. Committee members felt that the closing time should remain the same, but the gate should be closed ½ hour later (1 hour after sunset) to allow park visitors to return to the parking lot. Jessie will contact Mary and Chris Boyd about this change. The brochure was approved with changes. The parking lot 911 address will be added when available. Local trail web sites should be checked and updated.

**Consider dates for Game of Logging courses**

Northeast Woodland Training can do courses in the fall. Committee members suggested the following schedule: Level 1 on September 19, Level 2 on September 26, Level 3 on October 3, and Storm

Damage Clean-up on October 17. Members also suggested that the courses be held in the same area as last year, in the hedgerow across from the Nordic Farm. Jenny will contact Northeast Woodland Training to see if these dates work. There is still clean-up to do from last year's courses.

#### **Finding alternative contractor for cutting hazard trees**

V.J. Comai is unable to meet the Town insurance requirements. At Larry's suggestion, Jessie will contact Chris Fortin. She will also get an estimate from with Teachers Tree Service. She suggested the Committee go out again to identify trees to be cut. There was discussion of cleaning up tree markings.

#### **Discuss process for revision of Park Management Plan**

There was a brief discussion of how to approach this project—members felt that agricultural management was a good place to start. Bob will contact Dean so he can ask the Selectboard to consider how they would like to approach the Management Plan revision.

#### **Other**

Earth Day and Green-up Day are coming up. Sue would like to have a work day to remove old farm machinery from hedgerows.

The Committee's Selectboard representative did not attend the meeting. Committee members felt it would be good to seek another person on the Selectboard who can be more involved.

The next meeting will be scheduled when Tim Hunt is back in town in mid-March.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.