

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**Monday, March 19, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Charlotte Town Hall**

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

**Others:** Andrew Milliken

Andrew is interested in serving on the Park Oversight Committee and has submitted a letter to Dean. His appointment will be on the March 26 Selectboard agenda.

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2018. Sue seconded the motion and it was passed 6-0.

Jessie wanted to add a discussion about the scavenger hunt to the agenda.

A list of project updates and upcoming work was circulated prior to the meeting. The list is attached.

**Park Management Plan: Review drafts and discuss remaining work**

Committee members discussed two sections: 1) Section D. Landscape Management Plan and Maintenance Standards, and 2) Wildlife: Maintained Meadows and Shrubland Bird Habitat Areas. Suggestions were made to make a short version of the plan for townspeople, create a document with links to the exhibits, and to use the Town website for showing the plan and exhibits. The group decided that these two sections should be completed and sent to the Selectboard for approval while remaining sections are completed.

Mark made a motion to approve the two sections contingent on final edits. Sue seconded the motion and it was approved by the members. Jessie will e-mail her edits to Jenny. Once the sections are finalized, Jenny will contact Dean about scheduling Selectboard approval of the two sections.

Mark suggested combining sections about successional woodlands and woodlands, Units P and O. He talked about options for dealing with the emerald ash borer, including tree selection, monitoring, treatment and a town-wide contract for treatment. He will work on a paragraph about insect invaders to go in the invasive species part of Section D and a protocol for management of the emerald ash borer.

Andrew will send his thoughts about the woodlands sections to Mark by e-mail. He suggested leaving dead trees as habitat for bats and working with neighboring property owners on management issues.

**Updates and 2018 work: Plan for upcoming projects and spring volunteer work days**

A snowy owl has been seen at the park. Steve Antell will record the sighting on ebird.

Jessie is on the committee planning the Charlotte Land Trust scavenger hunt. She expressed concern for the safety of using the Route 7 entrance at the Thorp Barn. Park Committee members concluded that it would be better to use the Greenbush Road parking area and carpool from the Town Hall.

The Committee discussed work to be done where the hedgerow was cleared during the winter. Jessie is working on a plan for plants that will be donated by Linda Hamilton to be planted by Larry's benches. There is much work to do in the hedgerow area. Sue will set up a meeting of interested Park Committee members to look at the site and work on a planting plan. An Earth Day volunteer day will take place on the weekend of April 21. Greg may have young trees to donate.

Committee members were fine with the change of date, from September 8 to September 9, for the Nature Connection Guide walk on "Forest Bathing Day."

Once the Town budget is approved, planning can begin on the Get to Know Your Park Day.

The next Park Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

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## **CHARLOTTE PARK AND WILDLIFE REFUGE: March updates and work list for 2018**

### **Ahead of the Storm site 1 project**

The Vermont Watershed grant for \$2500 has been approved. This covers engineer oversight and construction. Clearing of invasive trees and shrubs in the project area has been done by James Bell (\$500) and volunteers. Some of the brush piles have been burned. The remaining piles need to be burned or moved from the field.

### **Winter Hedgerow Clearing**

Work in the hedgerow on the south side of the trail, west of the Thorp Barn, was done by Church Hill Landscapes (\$1500). Volunteers cleared a portion of the hedgerow on the north side of the trail. Follow-up work includes repairing areas where machinery left ruts, seeding bare ground where invasive plants were removed and replanting the hedgerow with native trees and shrubs. Sue ordered wildflower seeds. We may want to consider using the donation from the Lionheart Charitable Trust for the purchase of trees and shrubs. Shall this be a project for Earth Day?

### **Landscape Plants by Larry's Benches**

The area was prepared last fall. Jessie volunteered to come up with a planting plan and to help find sources for shrubs.

### **Wood Chips on the Roberts Way Trail**

Sue spoke with Junior last year about delivering chips to the top of the trail and the side trail that leads to Meg Berlin's driveway. This will help us get to all parts of the trail when distributing chips. Should we ask student volunteers (CVUHS seniors) to help with this?

### **Bridge Stabilization**

Jessie spoke with Peter Denton and James Bell. More research is needed to come up with a plan to do this work as soon as possible.

### **Invasive Plants**

Garlic Mustard: A possible Green Up Day task?

Wild Parsnip: Junior has been doing annual Route 7 roadside mowing around July 1. Last year this included the Galbreath property across the road. (We have a permit from VTrans for work in the right-of-way.) Other patches of wild parsnip (and Dyer's Greenweed?) should be mapped for mowing at the same time. Controlling small patches has been done by volunteers through the summer season.

### **Water Trees**

The elms will need watering. Is there funding for this? Mowed access to the trees in the northern section of Unit N should be added to the early summer mowing list.

### **Bog Bridges**

Money is in the budget for this project next fall. Some materials could be purchased this spring if we have funds.

### **Other Work**

- ✓ Put up bird nesting boxes by the riparian buffer between Units A and B.
- ✓ Clean up firewood in project areas.
- ✓ Finish cutting and treating stumps in the hedgerow south of Snowdrift Lane.
- ✓ Check the compost at the parking for invasive worms and treat if necessary.
- ✓ Come up with plan to thin trees near the parking area on Greenbush Road.
- ✓ Cut trees impinging on gravel trail and making access difficult.

### **Park Management Plan**

Two sections are have been circulating for Committee review. The remaining sections exist in draft form. Can we complete the revision this year?

### **Nordic Farms**

A farm dispersal auction is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. After the auction, Clark would like to discuss future plans for the Nordic Farms and organic certification for park land.

### **Varney Farm Access**

The property is now owned by the Metropolous family. Evan Metropolous can meet with us in April.

### **Nature Connection Guide Forest Bathing Walks**

Duncan Murdock has chosen the following dates. He would like to change the September walk to Sunday, Sept. 9 from 2-4 pm as part of a larger coordinated event, Forest Bathing Day.

Saturday, April 7th

Saturday, July 7th

~~Saturday, September 8th~~

Saturday, October 6th

Saturday, November 3rd

Saturday, December 8th

### **Charlotte Land Trust Scavenger Hunt**

This is scheduled for Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Park neighbor, Denise Kahm volunteered to help.

### **Get to Know Your Park Day**

Once the Town budget is approved in April, it will be time to set a date and start planning. Ideas and volunteers to coordinate the event are needed.