

**Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**Friday, August 18, 2017**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge**

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

**Others:** none

**Approval of minutes: January 26, February 16, March 15, May 10, May 30, 2017**

A motion was made by Greg and seconded by Jessie to approve minutes for meetings on 1/26, 2/16, 3/15, 5/10 and 5/30/17. The minutes were approved. A second motion was made by Jessie and seconded by Mark to approve minutes from June 21. Only three Committee members were present and no action was taken. The minutes were approved.

**Project updates:**

**Benches in memory of Larry:** The benches were purchased by the Hamilton family and installed by Joe Blasius (with a discount in appreciation for Larry's service to the Town). Junior provided gravel and put gravel around other overlook benches. The old bench was cleaned and installed at the top of Roberts Way. Jessie will contact Linda Hamilton about plantings near the new benches. Jessie suggested planting a patch of native grasses.

The Lewis family asked Greg about placing a plaque by the tree planted in memory of Cowboy at the beach. There was discussion about the plaques for Arline Lewis and Larry Hamilton, and on benches at the beach. Greg will research options.

**Summer mowing and wild parsnip control:** Route 7 mowing was done by Junior Lewis at a cost of \$280. Adam Dantzcher brush-hogged other areas—two mowings at \$183.75 and \$96.25. Wet weather made early mowing difficult. More work is needed in Unit D to clear around native plants and to plan for ongoing field management. Smaller equipment seems to work better for selective brush-hogging. Wild parsnip removal also included about 50 hours of volunteer work. Jenny created a map of areas to mow next year.

**Ahead of the Storm site 2 project – approve contractor**

Brian Cote from Malone and MacBroom revised the plan so it could be used for seeking quotes. He flagged locations for check dams and will provide further oversight as needed. He suggested the use of a small excavator and skid-steer. \$2,200 of the grant money has been received. The

total grant amount is \$2,750. The project is to be completed by 1/31/18. Engineering costs are being covered by Lewis Creek Association.

Quotes: Junior Lewis, Chris Fortin and Chris Mack were contacted. Chris Fortin was not interested. Junior provided a quote for \$2,400. Chris Mack is interested but has not yet provided a written quote. He looked at the site and stated he could do the work for around \$2,500. He has a small excavator and skid-steer. Junior has larger equipment. Mark made a motion, seconded by Greg to select the smaller machine and have Chris Mack do the work if we have a bid at or below his estimate of \$2,500 and the work can be completed by October 15— otherwise we will go with Junior. The motion was passed.

**Budget for 2018-19**

The Park budget will be on the Selectboard September 11 agenda. Committee members reviewed a draft budget for 2018-19. It included the following:

	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
Mowing/maintenance	\$6000	\$6000
Gravel trail work	500	500
Brush-hogging	2500	2500
Maintenance of signage, benches and bridges	2250	1000
Hedgerow and brush-clearing projects	2500	2500
Misc.	200	200
Ahead of the Storm site 1 project	3202 (Site 2 Project)	2500
Tree-cutting		<u>1000</u>
Total	\$17,152	\$16,200

Sue made a motion, seconded by Jessie, to add \$1,500 for bridges. The motion was approved.

**Memo to Selectboard regarding waiver of agricultural lease payment for bobolink field**

Mike LaClair is not longer working with Nordic Farms. Committee members thought it would be a good time to meet with Clark Hinsdale to discuss the agricultural lease. Jenny will contact him. Mark made a motion, seconded by Greg, to approve a draft memo recommending the waiver of the lease payment for the approximately 13 acres in the bobolink field. The motion passed.

**Fall projects:**

**Bog bridges: Approve use of donated money (\$500) for materials**

Jenny reported on progress so far and volunteers interested in the project. Jessie stressed

the importance of a good plan so the project can be completed quickly. She felt a plan should be approved at a future meeting.

**Unit N brush-hogging, preparation for AOTS site 1 project, volunteer work days:**

No specific plans were made for these items.

**E-mail regarding bee hives in the Park**

Three e-mails were discussed:

1. E-mail from Maeve Kim on July 11 regarding field management for grassland birds. Sue responded to the e-mail, inviting Maeve to the park to discuss.
2. E-mails with Clark Hinsdale regarding the agricultural lease and maintenance issues.
3. An e-mail from Bob Haven on August 15<sup>th</sup> regarding honeybees in the park.

Jenny will contact Clark and Bob to schedule a meeting when they both can attend.

**Other**

While using compost near the parking area, Jenny noticed worms that looked like the invasive “snake worms.” There is information about invasive earthworms on a blog by UVM Soil Scientist, Josef Görres. Jenny will research the issue.

Greg suggested having an open house day at the park this fall. Various ideas were discussed for this and future events. Committee members thought locally promoted event would be best considering park access limitations.