

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Committee Meeting
August 28, 2018
5:30 p.m.
Charlotte Town Hall

Members present: *Jenny Cole, Sue Smith, Greg Smith, Mark Dillenbeck, Andrew Milliken, Dorothy Hill*

Brief discussion of hawthorn bush in front of Larry Hamilton's bench, committee agreed it belonged there and should be left in place.

Update on projects

Wood chips continue to be brought in by Dale Knowles and spread by Jenny and others. More work to do spreading chips by bog bridges.

We should have a volunteer day soon, Saturday in September, Jen to send date options. Potential tasks include more wood chip spreading, prep for bog bridges, trimming along trails, parking area trimming and clean up. Some bog bridges getting slick, discussed options, decided to try spreading sand.

Ahead of the Storm: Brian Cote from Milone and MacBroom will act as engineer; will go out this week to site check dam and trail crossing. May need more brush hogging ahead of the construction.

Brush hogging: Two phases. First phase is Ahead of the Storm site, *Genista* sites; access for bog bridges, overlook area, area behind Thorp Barn for parking. Second phase: pollinator meadows. Potential contractors: James Bell, Junior, Adam. See who is available. Jenny will contact contractors for first phase.

Honeysuckle: Pull out large honeysuckle by the roots in northwest corner near elm trees. Sue will check to see if Chris Fortin will provide a cost quote.

Community Event this fall: Unity Farm in Charlotte has horse-drawn wagon that holds about 12 people, \$350 for three hours. Considered parking at Varney Farm but agreed to park by Thorp Barn and brush hog more areas for parking there. Could do half-hour rides on upper trails. Important to provide access for those who cannot typically access the refuge from below. Provide information about refuge to visitors and how to help and or donate. Use cones/signs to control traffic on Route 7 as police are prohibitively expensive. Grange could sell food – Dorothy to check. Food truck is another option – Greg to investigate. Tentatively October 7, avoid conflict with tractor parade on October 14.

Budget: Dean offered opportunity for the committee to present budget to the Select Board on October 22 or November 12. Group agreed later date was better. Budget was higher this year due to several capital projects including bog bridges, Ahead of the Storm, as well as hedgerow, mowing, brush-hogging, cutting trees. Could ask for less but not too much less.

Discussed ash trees and Emerald Ash Borer. Mark discussed doing full census and removing hazard trees near parking and trails. Others should be left to die in place and serve as habitat. Select several trees as specimen trees to treat and maintain as potential refugia/stock for future generations, members should identify trees that they think we should treat and keep. Budget \$900 for biannual treatments.

Check with Gary Small to see if he wants to do volunteer tree cutting and take the wood.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.