

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
5:30 p.m.
Charlotte Town Hall

Members present: Jenny Cole, Mark Dillenbeck, Greg Smith, Sue Smith

Others: Duncan Murdoch

Meeting with Duncan Murdoch, Nature Connection Guide

Duncan talked about the practice of shinrin-yoku (forest bathing) and the nature mindfulness walks he offers through Nature Connection Guide. He would like to have walks at the park about once a month. He charges a fee of \$20 per person with a cap of 15 participants. Jenny checked with the Vermont Land Trust to see if this would be considered a commercial use, which would not be allowed by conservation restrictions. The response was that the use is not incompatible and is similar to activities of other organizations such as Audubon Vermont. As long as it is not frequent and does not interfere with the use and enjoyment of the park by others, there would not be a concern.

Committee members asked about walks being offered through the Senior Center or at the “Get to Know Your Park Day” next year. Duncan would charge \$300 for a 2 hour walk.

There was discussion of establishing an application process for park use. Greg will work on this.

Mark made a motion that the Committee is supportive in principle with “Forest Bathing” once a month at the park, pending confirmation of details provided by Duncan Murdoch. The motion was seconded by Sue and passed by all members present.

Adjustments to agenda - None

Approve minutes from October 30 meeting

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Final edits on Park Committee report for Town Report

Greg sent his edits by e-mail. There were no other changes.

Updates for Park work

The Committee discussed sending thank you cards to volunteers. A list was made. Jenny will follow up.

Choose winter project location, discuss contractor options

There is \$5399.05 remaining in the budget. There is also a \$1000 donation from the Lionheart Charitable Trust. About \$3100 will be needed for spring mowing and maintenance. This leaves \$2000 for winter projects. Committee members decided that \$500 will be used for chainsaw work by James Bell to prepare for the Ahead of the Storm site 1 project. \$1500 will be used to hire a contractor to clear brush in the hedgerows near the overlooks west of the Thorp Barn. Jenny will contact James and seek quotes from contractors.

The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.