

## WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of **July 27, 2015**, called to order at 6:50 pm.

Attending: Marc Pramuk, chair, Debbie Scranton, Jill Burkett, Carol Macleod, Dave Klock, Ralph Nimtz.

Previous meeting minutes approved. Recording device memory was full.

### **Stone Meadow Projects:**

**Bee Project** Topsoil in place, raked seeded and mulched with sign in place. No evidence of wild flowers yet. Hives have been offered if we want. Location, maintenance and safety issues to be determined.

**Poison Parsnip** The meadow has been cleaned of a hundred thirty or so plants again this year. Our recommendation to both the Selectboard (road commissioner) and the Rec Committee that they be aware of and proactive in their addressing of it at public spaces e.g. beach parking area and ball field parking area. A quick online search highlights this: "Wild parsnip is of concern because humans develop a severe skin irritation from contact with sap from the plant. During much of July, August and early September wild parsnip is one of the most visible yellow-flowered weeds in roadside ditches, public recreation areas, around sports fields, fence rows, and along railroad tracks. The best way to control wild parsnip is by early detection and eradication".

**Work Days** Work accomplished in July through our volunteer efforts include: cleared 4 trees down across trails, installed new trail signs & new trailhead at Beach entrance, finished raking Buzzards Roost, cut brush along Rim Walk, added photos to kiosk, pulled poison parsnip, string trimming on Rim Walk - an effort of 40+ person hours during the month (on top of prior volunteer labor May-June)

### **Other projects:**

**Beach Pavilion** The pavilion has been constructed and appears to be a big success. A grand opening for the Canoe Trail and the new Pavilion is suggested to be in mid-September on a Sat. or Sun. as a rain-day. A plaque was discussed to thank the donors. Left over money might be used to help fund moving of Beach Rd. gate out to Rte. 140.

**Parking Area** Most members favored a heavy duty split rail cedar fence laid in a zig zag pattern with landscaping in the pockets. Rotary members offered to help secure a grant to pay for the fence as well as their free labor force. The new sign might be a pile of 4 or 5 big boulders with one flat-sided stone, centered, with "Stone Meadow" carved into it. The parking area is of adequate size, but maybe lowered and leveled, perhaps by the Road Crew, with a slight berm between it and the fence.

**Otter Creek Water Pipe** Some of the water pipe is now about 8 inches above the water and a real hazard to canoeists and kayakers. It runs the risk of being broken by a floating log or tree and spewing water at will until noticed. We understand it only serves one house, and that it freezes in the winter. It seems like this situation should be corrected by lowering it or some other means. We will ask the Fire District to look into this.

**Vandalism** One of our benches is missing. We assume it might be still be on the property somewhere. Quite a bit of litter along the trails and in the parking area. Several attempts to shatter plexiglass at the kiosks.

**Budget** Our budget is really insufficient to operate. Maps and brochures are constantly being replenished. We have mowing, landscaping, bark mulch, and gravel, signage, bird houses, benches, kiosks and the boardwalk to maintain. We have one or two Town gatherings where we provide free food and drink. Considering our labor is free, we would really like more support from the Town for expenses. We think our efforts are really appreciated by Town folks and visitors and that Stone Meadow is a real asset to our community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Respectively submitted, Ralph Nimtz, Secretary.