

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020

Present: Marc Pramuk (chair), Ralph Nimitz (vice-chair), Carol Macleod (Treasurer), Pat Stone (Secretary), Debbie Scranton, Jane Quigley

Guests: Michael Luzader

1. Called to order by Ralph Nimitz@6:30 PM.
2. Approval of Jan. minutes
3. Additions/ Deletions to the Agenda: none
4. Public Comments:
 - a. Michael Luzader: commented that Winter fun day was a great event. Brought up the concept of having it another weekend next year as many families are busy or out of own Presidents week.
5. Potential Children's program at Stone Meadow
 - a. Michael Luzader, a member of the Library Board, is seeking permission/ support for the creation of a story walk in Stone Meadows. This would be a series of stands/ stops along the current trails featuring laminated segments of a (story) book that parents and children alike can enjoy.
 - b. Gilbert Hart Library is already making plans for this. They will add it to their annual fund-raising plans in April and would like to add our support in their letter. Their hope is to have it in place for a kickoff on Wallingford Day in July.
 - c. They would be supplying the materials, and the books, and there is access to some such books through the Department of Libraries. They hope to rotate the books throughout the year to coincide with events or seasons.
 - d. WCC has agreed to support such a welcome addition to Stone Meadows and has volunteered to help erect the stands and include them in an update to the trail maps and kiosk brochures. It was noted that there are some supplies at Elfin Lake that are left over from previous projects. Michael will check with Sandi Switzer about access. The Next step is for the Library Board to get the approval of the Selectboard.
 - e. A suggestion was made to include updates to the Story Walk in the Town newsletter and website if is approved.
6. Winter Fun Day:
 - a. The day went well, the area was well suited to the event. About 50 people enjoyed the sledding and food. It was suggested that we use another 8' table in the future as the food table was crowded.
 - b. The icy conditions led to a very slick sled track, and shedders made it all the way to the trees. A few well-placed hay bales may be needed for next year.
 - c. Will consider moving it to another weekend with further discussion.

7. Bike Trails:

- a. Marc Carol and Deb went to the last Selectboard meeting to discuss the further encroachment of the ad hoc bike trails in Stone Meadows. The board was fully supportive, adding that further bike trails/ jumps would be considered vandalism and Marc has posted a sign that there is to be no further changes to Stone Meadow without permission from the WCC. Deb will make a larger more permanent sign and post this week. At the suggestion of the SB, Mark has stored the tools found along their trail in our shed.
- b. The Selectboard has asked us to work with the Recreation Committee and come up with a plan for the future of bike trails at Stone Meadow. Marc will attend their meeting on March 9 at 6:30. It was suggested that we hold a public meeting to get the input from the town residents as to current and future biking endeavors.

8. Update/ Next Steps on Stone Meadow

- a. In accordance with our Forestry plan, the first group of trees were cut down by Rob Barker on February 20 and 21. More will come later.
- b. More Shur pak will be laid down in May along the beach trail.
- c. Invasive tree/ plant removal
 - i. Should we use the VYCC? Keith Warner has given us a price:
 1. \$1500/ day, \$7500/ week.
 2. \$2000/ 2 days, \$3000/ 3 days
 - ii. He will use 5-6 youths and wants to do this in the fall.
 - iii. It was suggested that we hire an expert in invasive plant species and run a workshop for volunteers to do some of the work ourselves, but the point was made that it is a difficult task, and the right tools are necessary.
 - iv. We will revisit this at the March meeting.
- d. Bees: Marc will order soon.

9. Budget:

- a. Current Budget: \$'s in Town Budget Account - \$2288.65. \$'s in Donation Budget - \$2200.95, but the additional \$865 from Marc's volunteer work has not been added in yet.
- b. \$750 is still due to Rob Barker for tree removal plus the expense for the single tree that was taken down previously.
- c. Carol suggested that we look into ordering trees, especially flowering fruit trees for the bees from the RNRCD. Will re-visit this in March meeting.

10. New Business:

- a. Green Up Day is May 2nd (50th anniversary)
- b. Great Elfin Lake 5K is May 24th
- c. Wallingford is July 18th

11. Adjourn: 7:30

Next Meeting is Monday March 30, 2020