



MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION LAND AD-HOC COMMITTEE

October 8, 2020

Present: Sarah Hewins (Chair), Dan Badger, Bob Bentley, Savery Moore, Roger Shores

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Business

- Sarah Hewins elected Chair.
 - Motion: Savery Moore
 - Second: Bob Bentley
 - Approved 4 - 0 – 1 [Who abstained?]
 - Savery offered to take the minutes of the meeting.

- Sarah gave a Powerpoint update on various Conservation properties around town
 - Cole property
 - The kiosk needs work
 - Overall there are trees down, ATV damage, invasive species
 - Green Trail needs to be finished and mapped
 - White Trail has wet area
 - Orange Trail has downed trees and very wet area. Dan Badger indicated the Boy Scouts were building a bridge
 - [Blue Trail needs extensive mowing, trees need to be removed from the bogs, picnic table area needs clearing so it can actually be used, bog roads need clearing. Bog roads area of blue trail would make a nice “stroller” part of the trail since it’s flat and picturesque.]
 - Savery Avenue

- Dan said that garbage is not a problem at either Cole or Savery properties. Sarah noted that people do leave their junked small machines and home trash in bags at pull-over areas.
 - Bob indicated that some areas of path need widening, and the south entrance is blocked.
 - [Sarah pointed out that there is a ready-made “stroller trail” connecting two parts of the northernmost area of trail that could be cleared of low branches and limbs for easier walking with a stroller..]
 - Indian Brook
 - Only room for 2 cars
 - Need turnaround
 - Can’t see the sign
 - [Lots of trees down and blocking the path]
 - Signage [installed by Scouts] ruined
 - Crystal Lake [/ Beaver Dam Brook Conservation Area]:
 - Can all properties shown on map [as belonging to the Select Board and/or Crystal Lake Association be transferred to Conservation Commission in future]? We’ll investigate. (Shown as yellow and pink on Powerpoint maps)]
 - Clear Pond
 - Next to Copper Lantern Lane: [total 6.99 acres of land surrounding pond and ½ of pond itself.]
 - Meadow Street
 - Need to find out where property is from Registry (Sarah [will do this])
- [Wenham Road:

10 acres off the road. Entrance is 20 feet wide between two houses. No room to park.]

 - Wood[haven Street]
 - Under power lines. 12 acres. [Utility ROW is the entrance.]
 - [Great South Meadow] Cedar Swamp
 - Does Con Comm have Dan Fortier map? [Swamp is approximately 600 acres total. Aquifer recharge area and flood control importance. Almost 200 acres is town-owned. All should be Conservation care & custody in future]

Issues

- Make trails usable
- Community buy-in
 - Dan – “Guilt – Envy – Motivation – Buy-in”
- Engage groups to fix trails
 - Family “ownership”
 - Group “ownership”
 - Local business “Adopt-a-Trail”
- Dan – Marketing verbiage
 - Thematic trails
 - Heart-healthy
 - Stroller-friendly
 - Kid-friendly – “Salamander Safari”
- What equipment is available
 - [Gravelly mower? (check with DPW; Con Comm owns this but DPW probably uses it)]
 - Weed Wrench (check with Con Comm)]
 - Dingo
 - Hedge trimmers
 - Side-arm mower

Ideas

- Dan - Get groups involved early
 - Community Service
 - Carver Trail & Conservation Stewards
 - Family-friendly
 - Tiered approach
 - Professionals
 - Helpful Helpers (with required hours)
 - Maintainers (learners)
 - Can lead to vocation
- Get the word out
 - Dan’s website
 - Carver Website
 - Sarah’s [timeline]
 - Carver-centric Facebook pages
 - Newspaper

- Dan –
 - Third party help, i.e. Leave No Trace—[from e.g., Mass Audubon]
 - Technical support
 - Get the right leaders
 - Make sure people sign waivers [**for general use by volunteers; clippers, etc. Power equipment training needed? / find out from town if this is necessary**]
 - Get help from neighbors/abutters

Next Steps

- Ask Con Comm to place Meadow Street on Spring Town Warrant[to transfer from Select Board to Conservation care & custody.]
- Responsibilities for next meeting
 - Sarah – will check [ownership of all properties under discussion with records at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds]
 - Dan[and Bob (?)] – will check equipment inventory
 - Roger – will assess Savery Avenue
 - Savery – will check other towns’ websites for non-government / community ease of navigation

Next meeting – TBD

[Adjourned at (?) 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn: _____; 2nd _____: Vote: 5-0]

Respectfully submitted,

Savery Moore
[Clerk, Pro Tem]