

Durham Land Stewardship Committee

Meeting Notes: 2/11/16

Present: Ann Welsh (chair), Todd Selig, Vin dell'Ova, Rachel Gasowski, Malin Clyde, Kenny Roetner, Mike Lynch (briefly)

New Chair – no interest so far; Todd thinks that if the Committee can approve all members of this committee. Ann will approach the Conservation Commission to formalize our membership a bit (formally recognize members); Rec Committee and Ag Commission will continue to appoint at least one member, who will not need to be approved by the Conservation Commission.

Oyster River Forest – if we raise money to fund the trails project, we will need to get a vote of approval from the Conservation Commission; Mike mentioned the need to make sure the loop trail around the bog is moved (on the far side) so that it is not too close to the edge of the bog.

Want to stage the project – we want to do the ADA portion of trail now; also want to get the bridge done; total cost for those two parts of the project: \$5,000 for bridge, \$18,000 Spruce Hole loop trail and ADA trail. \$23,000 plus signage

Brooke from NRCS couldn't come today, but suggested we meet with Charlie; perhaps incorporate some trail elements with forestry work? Ann will keep in touch with NRCS...

Fundraising – donating to a specific "oyster river forest trail project" – Todd will look at the best way to collect the money.

River trail – the town sign is often removed – need to ask Steve at UNH Woodlands Office about us putting welcome/leaving signs on their post...ours get removed

Wagon Hill – Mike is doing a field visit with Dr. Dave Burdick and DES regarding the Wagon Hill shoreline project.

Training for Nature Walks – Rachel will put a notice looking for new trail walk volunteers; we can send them to March 25 training (1-4:30 pm) in Concord, offered through UNH Cooperative Extension (sign up required through the Stewardship Network: New England). Hope to get 3-4 new, trained volunteers to help us lead walks.

Agricultural Comm – lots of discussion about the farmer's market, moving it back downtown, creating a winter's market, etc.

Rec Committee – have trails day on Sunday Feb. 21 – Snowshoe on the Sweet Trail. Beech Hill, had major rain the night before – kind of a bust. Will try to re-do it in the future.

Conservation Commission – Ellen Snyder (consultant) will do a notebook and management plan for Thompson Farm property. Rachel and Mike met with her yesterday.

Todd: a resident who lives in Woodridge; worried about the federal government buying up land to create shrbulands (taxable lands).

Merrick Trail – very overgrown in spots – Todd will keep it open, but suggestion to host a walk there where people bring their loppers and saws. Need to contact the owners and let them know.

Powder Major Farm – raising money to purchase; Diana Carroll will hold a coffee at her house.

Capstone Easement – Todd will check if the town paid Strafford Rivers to monitor the easement longterm; there is some trash, Ann walked easement with Deb Goard of SELT, there was a minor trail, but nothing damaged. Probably should go back in the spring. Best time to walk it will be in May.

Dennis Meadow's idea – connecting Mill Pond Center (it got sold); also talked to neighbors; Diana Carroll really wants to see it happen. Renner family are asking for a lot of restrictions, Todd will take a look to see if there are any possibilities for town ownership or easement to get a bridge over the OR.