

“Stewarding Our Lands” LSS Working Group

1/17/23 meeting summary

In attendance: Sally Needell, Gale Carey, Ann Welsh, Sara Callaghan, Mike Drooker (Zoom)

- 1) We reviewed the first draft of the **Oyster River Forest/Spruce Hole Bog (ORF/SHB)** Questionnaire findings. Key items discussed were:
 - a. More clearly define parking orientation and spaces at both parking areas.
 - b. Use trail counters to collect user information.
 - c. Redo kiosk signage to clarify *why* hunting is allowed on this property.
 - d. Add signage regarding “fragile ecosystem” and that dogs must be leashed on all paths at Spruce Hole Bog.
 - e. Consider adding an Observation platform at SHB with educational signage.
 - f. Consider adding dog poop bags to kiosk areas
 - g. Consider adding a bench near the SHB connector.
- 2) We discussed ways to present the findings from the **Wagon Hill** Questionnaire to the LSC. In light of the stated purpose of Wagon Hill Farm, we distilled the Working Group’s recommendations into 3 areas: (1) parking – given the house renovations, is more parking needed? Or given that the property is being “loved to death”, should parking remain as it? Less? (2) dogs – would a spacially separate area for dogs ease the dogs-no dogs tension so apparent in the questionnaire comments? (3) wildlife – would fencing be useful to protect wildlife and sensitive areas such as bobolink nesting and waterfront?
- 3) Additional items: Sara created a sign with a QR code that links to the **Longmarsh** questionnaire, so anyone using the property can participate in the questionnaire. We discussed the value – at some future date, perhaps 2024 - of having QR codes on each property that allows users to quickly and easily report an issue/concern.

Action Items:

- 1) Gale will contact Rich Reine for advice on ways to delineate the parking orientation and spaces at the **ORF/SHB** parking areas.
- 2) Sara will become familiar with the trail counters, then install 2 at the **ORF/SHB** to give us more information about usage of that property (one near Packers Falls parking area, one near stone wall where Oyster River Forest meets College Woods).
- 3) Sara and Gale will walk the **ORF/SHB** with a critical eye on ways to improve the trail signs there (per questionnaire comments).
- 4) Gale will revise the recommendations on draft #2 **ORF/SHB** questionnaire findings.
- 5) Sara will install posts with QR code at two sites on **Longmarsh** inviting visitors to access the Longmarsh Questionnaire.
- 6) Gale will present the questionnaire findings from **Wagon Hill** to the LSC at the Jan 24 meeting.

Next meeting:

Feb 13, 2023, Monday, 10 AM in Town Hall first Floor Conference Room