

**Land Stewardship Subcommittee
Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road
Draft Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2023**

Members Attending: Ann Welsh, Jim Lawson, Gale Carey, Ted Howard (for Mike Everngam), and Marty Gorham.

Attending via Zoom: Mike Drooker.

Absent: Larry Brickner-Wood, John Nachilly, Mike Everngam, and John Carroll.

Also attending: Sara Callaghan, Todd Selig, and Rachel Gasowski

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Ann Welsh.
2. The order of the meeting agenda was revised and unanimously approved.
3. The minutes for the November 8, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Doe Farm
Ted Howard provided an update on the efforts of the trustees to rewrite the forestry plan. The goals are to promote a healthy forest that is accessible and may be used by the community use for both education and recreation. Students from the UNH Thompson School are assisting by collecting site data for use in preparing the management plan.

5. Land Stewardship Coordinator

On Tuesday 12/12/2023 Sara coordinated and working with a group of 8 members of the UNH Air Force ROTC on rerouting trails at the Longmarsh Preserve.

Sara coordinated mowing by the Sewell Brothers at the Thompson Forest. Half the field was mowed and a 50-foot access to the Pike Property. Sara was pleased with the work.

Sara worked with an adjacent land owner to the Pike Property to resolve an encroachment issue.

Sara site walked all town easements with the exception of Capstone, which will be walked by Ellen Snyder. No issues of concern have been observed.

Sara is planning to meet with the new owners of the Fogg-2 easement to discuss the terms of the easement.

6. Findings from the stewardship working group questionnaires were presented by Gale Carey.

A brief summary of the recommendations is as follows:

The Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park recommendations included adding a Kiosk, identify and mark property borders, and to update/correct the amenities noted on the town web site.

The Packers Falls Park recommendations included water quality testing, a suggestion to reduce the number of trails in an effort to minimize poison ivy exposure and trail erosion, to revise signage, and to evaluate parking.

The Oyster River Greenway recommendations included having an ongoing effort to manage invasive plant species and erosion in the Milne Sanctuary and Mill Pond Park, to provide input for issues associated with the mill pond dam removal and area restoration, and to explore ways to implement historic/educational signage.

The subcommittee voted to approve the three questionnaire findings and recommendations.

7. Bee City

Ann has asked committee members to send her a note with any activities that have taken place over the last year that have been done to protect or promote bee habitat.

8. Reports from Committees:

Rachel Gasowski met with UNH professors that are working on a parks and playground assessment. Work on this assessment is just beginning, so there will be updates in the future.

Mike Drooker stated that he had visited Wagon Hill Park and was pleased with the new bridge, the trail work, and land restoration work completed to date.

9. Other Updates

Jim Lawson stated the council's budget work has been completed.

Todd Selig stated that funds to do boundary surveys for some of the town properties have been included in next year's budget.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.