

MINUTES

Trustees of the Trust Funds Meeting
August 28, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
8:00 AM

Members Present: Mike Everngam, Chair, Craig Seymour, Bill Cote

Others Present: James Tobias, Alternate Trustee Candidate (via Zoom); Rich Reine, DPW Director; Ellen Snyder, Land Stewardship Coordinator; Charlie Moreno, Consulting Forester

- I. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and read the required preamble
- II. There was no public input.
- III. Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved as posted.
- IV. The minutes of the July 24, 2020 meeting were approved. Minutes are posted on the webpage.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. Update on Doe Farm.

As Charlie Moreno was traveling, the order of the Agenda was changed to allow him to present his findings.

4. Tree Harvest.

Charlie Moreno stated he walked the Doe Farm 2 weeks ago to assess the red pine conditions. He provided a history of measures taken over the years and how it led to present conditions. It is his opinion that the red pines are threatened by red pine scale and in 2 years all red pine would likely be dead. The scale is now in incipient stages and action is necessary.

Moreno offered 3 Options:

- Option 1. Maintain status quo with nothing done. The red pine would die in place and open the canopy up to spread of invasive species. The invasives would have to continue to be controlled.
- Option 2. Salvage cut the red pines only. This would be difficult as the market is negligible and would likely cost the Town.
- Option 3. Harvest red pines and add in light thinning of more marketable species. This could have a financial return for the

Town. Invasives would still have to be controlled. Winter is the ideal time to harvest.

Chair Everngam asked about controlling damage to trails and parking area by equipment. Moreno stated that there will be markings left by the equipment and said that working with top quality loggers can minimize this. It may be possible to get a cut-to-length operation where the trees are carried out rather than skidded out but could be more costly. NOTE: Administrator Selig, via previous correspondence, favors this option. Craig Seymour and Bill Cote indicated their favor for this option. Ellen Snyder said that funds need to be allocated for Moreno's work and that the Durham Land Trust has funds and the Town Council would need to approve. Chair Everngam said the Doe Farm Trust has some \$1,000 that could be used.

Rich Reine asked is any replanting would be done. Moreno favors natural regeneration but if this action was undertaken that native species (American chestnut) be used. Ellen Snyder said she is not a fan of replanting.

Craig Seymour motioned that the Trustees put together a plan to go to the Land Stewardship Committee for approval of an early 2021 harvest. Bill Cote seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Ellen Snyder indicated that the LSC can make recommendations
NOTE: Moreno left the meeting at 8:34.

Ellen Snyder said Bill Price (Turfpro) who has been treating the invasives hasn't been out yet and is due in September. She will meet with him. Need to focus on the red pine area as the canopy opens up. Volunteers could be gathered to pull seedlings.

NOTE: Rich Reine left the meeting at 8:40.

1. August Land Stewardship sub-Committee (LSSC) meeting.
3. Control of Misuse/Damage Discussion.

Chair Everngam stated that a resident complained she couldn't get to Moat Island due to campers. Everngam stated that there is an organizational meeting for town departments and committees next Wednesday to discuss these issues. The increased use of Doe Farm has led to these issues. There was discussion about developing a permit process for responsible camping. There is a permit requirement for campfires. Discussion ensued about enacting enforceable ordinances. Ellen Snyder said she is putting together all ordinances pertaining to use of the forests in town. She said that vandalism has spread up to the parking area.

2. Interns Commendation.

Chair Everngam indicated that individual letters have been prepared thanking the three interns who worked on Doe Farm and other town forests. He asked that each trustee sign them and give them to Jen Berry for mailing.

B. Update on Cemetery Committee.
Craig Seymour said it is busy with 3-4 burials and 2 more scheduled. 2 lot sales are upcoming. He stated that some bushes need trimming and that DPW has removed some trees obstructing headstones. Seymour is also discouraging casket burials near any tree root lines to preserve the trees.

C. Chair Everngam added this item to reference the Trustees review the spread sheet from Deb Ahlstrom, Staff Accountant. He also stated that copies of 2 new Council Resolutions have been provided.

VI. New Business:

A. Expenditure Requests. None.

B. Review by Alternate Trustee Tobias of Revised Internal Controls.
As a result of a virtual seminar attended by the Trustees, Chair Everngam asked Tobias to review the seminar to determine if the policy is in conformance. Tobias indicated that he would do so. Chair Everngam stated that the Trustees policy is silent on virtual meetings and that should be incorporated into the policy.

C. Reports or other new business brought forward by a Trustee. None.

VII. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2020.

Approved:

/s/ Michael H. Everngam
Michael H. Everngam

Date