

Town of Conway
Open Space Committee minutes
Tuesday, Jan.. 22, 2019, Town Office

In attendance: Janet Chayes, Jack Farrell, Michele Turre (note taker).

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.

- 1. Approval of Dec. 11, 2018 minutes** -- passed unanimously with minor adjustments.
- 2. Right of First Refusal:** The Town Administrator contacted the committee, as required, regarding the pending sale of Chapter 61B property. The committee voted unanimously against recommending the Town pursue exercising the right-of-first-refusal on the property.
- 3. South River Meadow Request for Determination of Applicability** -- Michele shared the revised RDAs for work planned at the Meadow based on input received at meeting with the Conservation Commission on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

The application for work to be overseen by the O.S. committee includes: Details for proposed work, work site area plan, parcel map, and deed. The committee unanimously approved the completed application with minor revisions.

Janet will schedule a meeting with the Highway Department Superintendent regarding submission of a separate RDA for their continued use of the property and cleanup from past uses.

- 4. Sustainable Land Care Symposium** -- Sponsored by the Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network at Smith College on January 15, 2019. Michele and Janice attended and reported back on actions the Conway O.S. committee might facilitate to preserve and increase pollinator habitat in Conway. The committee voted to reimburse for conference fees from O.S. budget.
- 5. Annual Report (7/1/17 – 6/30/18)** -- Andy is currently unavailable to complete work on our annual report. Jack will take over drafting the document

6. Old Business/ Info Updates --

Committee membership -- (on hold)

Committee Communications via town website -- Rescheduled training for Jack.

Land Use -- (on hold)

Trails Linkages -- (on hold)

Cultural Council Grant: Bumble bee specialist Dr. Robert Gegar of WPI has agreed to conduct a field walk in late June or July (exact date TBD). May also give an evening lecture at the Historical Society, if so, we can coordinate publicity. There are also funds for a second event

relating to native plants - presenter and date TBD. Janet proposed Laurie Sanders and her husband Fred, a butterfly expert.

Stiltgrass Project -- Michele will complete an application for Community Preservation Fund. Committee voted to endorse the request.

Invasive plants/Town & Landowner Awareness & Responsibility --

- Paperwork in progress for DCR grant for South River Gorge invasives control project.
- Interest in planning neighborhood walks in summer and fall to ID native and invasive vegetation.

Bigelow Lot --

- The town administrator has encouraged the committee to work with Highway Department on a mowing schedule for the lot (as well as perhaps additional mowing at South River Meadow).
- Jack is continuing research on Margaret Barr Bigelow before filing a report.

7. New Business

8. Schedule next meeting -- The next Open Space Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 26th at 7:30 in the town office building.