

October 19, 2023

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Dave Stevens, Kari Anderson, Jim Pease, Brent Teillon, Jess Zenghut, Jerry Throne, Evelyn Throne

Guests: Martha Battle, Dan McLaughlin

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 6:29

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

1. Village Tree Inventory-Jim reported that Martha, Fran Sladyk and Jess spent 3 hours in September on the tree inventory. Jim will be working on it this fall and winter. Peter Danforth will inventory the Oxbow Park as part of the replanting of the Peninsula. Martha would like to set up times to go with any interested volunteers over the next few months.
2. Trail Signage-Brent, Jerry and Dave have put some of the new signage. They also weeded the open field area and some muddy areas have had boards added. There is a new sign and post up at the open field area. There is a new Northwest Trail now. There is no signage at the Johnson Town line and cellar holes #5 #6 yet but will be and there are 5 up there to install. Jess reported that the kiosk is fully funded and will be installed soon. Lot lines may be identified in the future when the brochures are updated; could also put QR code on kiosks.
3. MCC Vacancies-we still need to recruit two vacancies. Richard came in September, and he has not decided yet. Gail is interested but has made no decision yet. Dan indicated interest and was asked to submit a resume; he was given a copy of the MCC bylaws.
4. Stowe-Cambridge ski area connector-the connector issue is not dead although the FPR stewardship committee opposes it. We should send a letter of support to FPR. Kari will draft a letter of support to the ANR commissioner.
5. Pollinator Discussion-the Town Forest planting area at historic site #7 is about 40'x55'. Kari reported that there is no date yet for the planting, consensus to try first weekend in November. We should plant 2-3' plants of Juneberry, Elderberry or Aronia. 13-15 3' bushes would be \$975; smaller bushes would be \$455. The discussion concurred that we would do 8-10 this fall and the rest could be bare root in the spring. Brent questioned how much funding we have; he will check with Tina. Possible sources for plants were discussed; Sterling College, Intervale Nursery and LCCD were mentioned. Brent made a motion to purchase 5 large plants for this fall. The motion passed unanimously. The Peoples Academy X-C team could help plant.
6. Other-Sue Morse canceled the talk for 12/6. She cited COVID and the fact that she is charging more. Brent made the motion to end this talk effort. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. We need a cochair to replace Kristen. Jerry was willing to do the administration with help from others. If Ron was sick Jerry would step in. Ron plans to vacate the chair at about Town Meeting.
2. Zoning meetings-Ron is frustrated with these meetings. He believes we need to present more ideas to the Planning Council for consideration.
3. Reforestation of Duhamel Property-the discussion is whether the MCC should be more involved with this property as it is with the Town Forest. Dave said we need to have a plan, a cost estimate and know what is involved with maintenance if we do get involved. Fran Sladyk was hired by the Town to develop a plan. Jim found out that there is a 2019 Forest Management Plan by Fran required by Act 250 and will has a copy. We could ask Fran if he would keep us apprised of any actions regarding the plan or another consultant could be hired. We should invite Fran to the next meeting to discuss this. Ron suggested that we also ask the Selectboard to keep us updated on the reforestation. Having an MCC member as part of the team was mentioned as well as concern for spreading of invasive species plants.
4. Other-discussion about property on the south side of Jersey Heights near the bypass. Apparently, there is the potential for 800 new homes in this area as low-density housing.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm
Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary