

Minutes for the September 16, 2019

Called to order at 5:34PM

Members present: Tom Miller, Joe Constance, Kim DiPietro, Willard Dodge, Graham Pendlebury, Dave Kent

Past minutes - approved

Agenda Discussion

Forestry article in the Beacon

Joe will write the articles with suggestions from members. Topics discussed included history and features of town forests referencing the info already in Tom's management plan and the plans/work of the committee

Report on Christmas trees

Tom discussed the trees that he picked up in Vermont, then planted and fertilized. The trees were of better size and quality than those received from the NH farm. It recommended that we use this source in the future. Tom is maintaining a planting and tree care guide for future use.

Discussed the recommendations from the Christmas Tree Grower's Association on the benefits of rototilling the soil prior to planting and planting in the fall. It was agreed follow these recommendations and shift over the next year spring to the fall planting. Watering is an issue and Willard is working on a watering solution.

Work party for Follansbee cut

In preparation for the cut (white pine – done in patches) a work party is scheduled for 9:00am Sunday the 29th of September. The group will meet at Saunders Hill and mark the skid trail, landing and trees. Following this work the group will move to the Lovejoy trail for trail maintenance (new business)

Conservation easements

KD – B. Thomson attended the PLC. Conservation Committee will cover costs using money from Open Space funds. A vote is needed to approve the deal and any additions

Summer Intern Position.

Proposal by Tom to engage a summer forestry intern for a 12-week assignment next summer. The internship is a required element in Forestry degree programs. The intern would help with:

Town forest management plan maintenance and reporting requirements

Christmas tree maintenance

Trail checks, maintenance and invasive plant control

Timber inventory

Proposed hourly rate of \$12.00 with required benefits = \$14.40-hour cost. At 12 weeks a 30-hour work week costs \$5.2K and a 40-hour week costs \$6.9K. There was discussion on the benefits of paying a slightly higher rate to encourage students to take the position, and of finding a local person to minimize travel expenses.

The potential for sharing the intern and cost with the Conservation Committee was discussed and will be proposed at an upcoming Conservation Committee meeting (new business).

Elliot land

Nothing noted

New Business

Combined forces, Forestry, Conservation and Open Space

Tom discussed the advantage of working closely with the Conservation and Open Space Committees to consider a more targeted approach to protecting important pieces of land. It was agreed that we would ask for time at the November 7th Conservation committee meeting to discuss:

1. The advantage in attending the planning board meetings to collect information and represent combined interests in protecting land
2. combining forces to identify important parcels of land to acquire for protection before they are developed
3. sharing the intern position and cost
4. discussion of the Elliot property

All available members will attend.

Lovejoy Project and Trail

Kim outlined the design and wording of the Lovejoy Plaque. Kim will get a picture for use on the plaque and send the wording to Tom so that it can be shared with the Lovejoy family for their approval. With the approval she will obtain a quote.

Following the September 29th work at the Follansbee site, the group will move to the Lovejoy trail to clean the trail

Printer

The large-scale printer is out of ink. Tom will obtain new ink and check with Laura B on the possibility that others are using the printer without sharing the cost.

Next meeting October 14, 2109

Meeting adjourned 6:52 PM