

Call to order by David Paganelli at 6:05.

In attendance: David Paganelli, Annie Penfield, Erik Skarsten, Rob Stainton, Kevin Gish, Greg Bagnato, Michael Sacca, Judith Falk.

1. Welcome the Public - Input and Concerns

- a. Mowing the paths.
 - i. Consideration of mowing timing. August versus First Frost depending on Milkweed. Talk with Andrea Shortsleeve tomorrow.

2. Stewardship Plan Development.

A. Review Draft of Ecology Report.

- a. Recommends a minimum 50ft buffer but ideally 100 ft buffer for streams and wetlands.
 - i. Have an existing trail that outlines the extent of the buffer.
- b. Consider establishing a “no-cut” or “Forever Wild” section of ACF. We (Micki, Rudi, Steve and Michael) recommend the Rich Northern Hardwood, which appears to have a well-developed herbaceous layer with a high diversity of plants that would benefit from a no-cut zone, and rich soils that would be easily damaged by logging equipment. An area that is Northern Hardwood is also suggested. David recommends calling these “reserves.” Public has suggested that this is something that they are interested in. Two areas suggested, one in Sharon and one in Strafford.
- c. Manage open fields for pollinators by annual mowing after the first killing frost. Discussion is needed about open field management. Why maintain the open fields? Suggested that having an open meadow is beneficial for a number of reasons. There is a cost to mowing the two openings. If it was a farm field leased to a nearby farmer it might generate funds.
- d. Develop an invasive control plan, especially for the barberry thicket that is developing in the southwest section of ACF.
- e. Recommends a natural communities survey. We do not need to wait to do this,

B. Review Recreation and Public Use Plan (Annie)

- a. Deleted from the plan - limiting access to the hours of dawn to dusk. Committee recommends leaving it out at this time.
- b. Deleted from the plan - list of recreational uses but was put back in. Committee recommends keeping the list in the plan.
- c. Deleted from the plan - no access from the Clifford Farm Rd. Committee recommends leaving this out.

C. Review Draft Education Plan

- a. Shared with the committee for review and will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. Andrea Shortsleeve Wildlife Habitat Assessment walk, July 22 at 9:00 a.m. Will be attended by David, Kevin, Erik and Judith.

E. 3. Public Meetings - Too early to schedule will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Needs 30 days notice.

3. Progress Update

A Facebook page has been created but has no content. Wait on the website. Add links to the Town websites to direct traffic there.

4. Signage Plan

Michael has proposed a temporary entrance sign until funds have been raised for a Kiosk and trail signs. A kiosk needs funds and must be in the Stewardship Plan.

5. Other Business

Porta Potty placement or a composting toilet. Strafford has a composting toilet behind the town house in Strafford. Porta Potty for this year. Move location out of the parking lot. A composting toilet is a long term solution, which should go on the Recreation and Public Use plan.

Suggested that Physical Improvements and History be added to the Stewardship Plan. Accessibility may be an issue for school groups using the Forest in the future.

Motion to Close the meeting: Annie. Second: Rob
Adjourned at 19.29

Next meeting. August 4, 2022 at Justin Morrill Education Center, Strafford.