

Minutes of the Forests and Trails Committee
Town of Conway, Massachusetts
September 22, 2021
7 pm Conway Town Hall & via Zoom

Present:

Members: Deb Donaldson, Priscilla Lynch, Marilyn Webster, Suzanne Artemieff (via Zoom)

Associate Members: Courtney Gilligan, Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Members of Public: Craig Warner (via Zoom)

Called to order, ~ 7 pm by Marilyn Webster

Minutes of meeting on September 13, 2021 approved.

New Business:

Suzanne Artemieff unanimously voted secretary.

Discussed issues around submitting a Conway Cultural Council grant application (Oct 15 deadline):

- Cost/amount needed to hire someone to lead an educational walk: Marilyn shared info from other organizations:
 - Hitchcock: \$195 + transportation (limit on number of participants?)
 - Arcadia: \$150-200
 - Kathy: 4-6 people, \$20/hr; 7-10 people, \$15/hr
- Who is it open to: there seemed to be a consensus that it be limited to Conway residents and the age range will depend on speaker
- Should there be a limit on number of participants: some favored no limits, while others felt large numbers might be impractical. It was suggested that information be presented prior to walk, including what would be pointed out during walk. Again, limits may depend on the leader.
- Scheduling: this may depend on speaker availability but must occur within the 18-month period of July 2021-Dec 2022
- Location: Fournier property suggested, but do not want to duplicate Mary Wigmore's walk. May depend on speaker.
- Topics/Possible Speakers:
 - Lauri Sanders: general naturalist
 - Bob Leverett: old growth expert
 - Tom Wessels: "Reading the Forest"
 - Something similar to Fitzgerald Lake walks
- Plan for covering costs not covered by CCC grant: DCR forum this coming Tuesday, 9/28, on grants that may be applicable - details on town web site

Due to time constraints and because a number of the issues depend upon the guide we hire, it was agreed to schedule another meeting on Oct 5th, to continue discussion. Prior to that meeting, Cynthia will contact both Lauri Sanders and Bob Leverett; Priscilla will contact Tom Wessels; and Courtney will gather information regarding the Fitzgerald Lake walks.

Deb proposed an additional activity that could be included in the grant application: creating signage for trees on the Fournier property, which could then be used for an arboretum walk. Deb has located a source for the signage. The signage activity/walk could be geared to students, but the issue of safe access needs to be addressed and the school has not responded to outreach.

Forest & Trails Committee bylaws were discussed and Marilyn will make edits so they can be approved at one of the October meetings.

Next Meeting Dates

October 5th

October 27th

Meeting adjourned, 8:30 pm

Submitted October 6, 2021, by Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary