

Minutes of the Forests and Trails Committee
Town of Conway, Massachusetts
October 5, 2021
7 pm via Zoom

Present:

Members: Deb Donaldson, Priscilla Lynch, Marilyn Webster, Suzanne Artemieff
Associate Members: Courtney Gilligan, Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Called to order, ~ 7 pm by Deb Donaldson

Minutes of meeting on September 22, 2021, approved with correction.

Unanimously agreed to postpone vote on proposed committee bylaws until next meeting.

Continued discussion around possible grant application to Conway Cultural Council. Discussion focused on pros and cons of funding a guide to lead a walk versus signage with QR codes for the Fournier land. The major advantages of the latter cited include a lasting educational exhibit available to all Conway residents and the possibility of collaborating with the grammar school, involving students in the project, which would serve as an educational tool specifically for students. A major disadvantage of funding a guided walk, aside from cost/person served, cited is trying to pin down a guide in the short time remaining before the grant application deadline. After a 5-minute break, the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the signage with QR codes. The following issues were discussed:

- Cost: \$400 for 20 signs and 36 months of web hosting
- Population Served: potentially all residents of Conway, with primary focus on it being used as an educational tool for the grammar school students
- Time Frame: creation of signage and web site over winter of 21/22, with signage installation over spring of 2022
- Plan if full funding is not granted: possibilities include:
 - a) Applying for DCR grant
 - b) Reducing number of signs
 - c) Using the grammar school's web site, if possible, to save hosting fee
- Others Involved:
 - a) Someone from Historical Society to advise on historical elements and related web content
 - b) Mary Wigmore to advise on biological elements and related web content
 - c) School personnel, including 6th grade teacher(s) regarding student involvement
 - d) Highway Department and possibly Town Administrator regarding trail access

Actions to be taken:

- Suzanne and Deb to complete grant application

- Suzanne to contact Historical Society
- Deb to contact Highway Department
- Cynthia to contact 6th grade teacher
- Marilyn to follow up with 6th grade teacher, other school personnel as needed

New Business:

Cynthia Lawton-Singer unanimously voted Associate Member.

Next Meeting Dates

October 27

November 30 (may need to be via Zoom)

December 22 (tentatively; will revisit at November meeting)

Meeting adjourned, 8:20 pm

Submitted October , 2021, by Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary