

Minutes of the Forests and Trails Committee
Town of Conway, Massachusetts
October 27, 2021
7 pm via Zoom

Present:

Members: Marilyn Webster, Deb Donaldson, Priscilla Lynch, Suzanne Artemieff, Paul Charest

Associate Members: Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Invited Guests: Mary Wigmore, Dawn Heffernan

Called to order, ~ 7 pm by Marilyn Webster

Minutes of meeting on October 5, 2021, approved with correction.

Unanimously voted to adopt proposed committee bylaws.

Any items to be added to agenda for next meeting should be sent to Marilyn and Deb by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

New Business:

Dawn Heffernan thanked the committee for extending her an invitation to the meeting and expressed her concern and questions regarding best practices to control the invasive Asian jumping worms. She shared that she and Master Gardener Kendall Clark will be collaborating to educate the public about this threat to our forests and would like to coordinate their efforts with both the Forest & Trails Committee and Open Space Committee.

Mary Wigmore shared an enormous wealth of information and ideas about how the town can implement and build upon the Conway Fournier Property Stewardship Management Plan, which she coauthored.

(https://townofconway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Conway-Fournier-FSP_FINAL_9.29.20.pdf)

- Community Outreach grants with \$20K cap and 25% supplied by applicant could be utilized to build upon project proposed in Conway Cultural Council grant application
- Additional funding available to towns within the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership who update their stewardship management plans to include climate change considerations (funding is available to complete this upgrade)
- Mary also shared ideas and resources to implement and build upon the project proposed in the CCC grant
 - USDA's Get To Know Your Forest educational workshop for teachers provides curriculum for students

- Suggestion to set up areas where students could monitor for invasive species, eg, hemlock woolly adelgid
- Suggested signs to mark boundaries of Fournier Property
- Mary generously agreed to the following:
 - Meet with Jaime to discuss 6th grade involvement
 - Lead a boundary walk for Jaime/other school staff
 - Lead a hike for 6th grade class

Committee unanimously voted to create working group comprised of Marilyn and Cynthia to work with Jaime on Fournier Property project, and report back to full committee.

Committee voted to complete survey to indicate interest in possibly updating the current stewardship management plans to include climate change resiliency considerations.

Next Meeting Dates

November 17

November 30 (tentatively; may need to be via Zoom)

December 22 (tentatively; will revisit at November meeting)

Meeting adjourned, ~9:10 pm

Submitted November 18, 2021, by Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary