

Minutes of the Forests and Trails Committee  
Town of Conway, Massachusetts  
December 22, 2021  
6:30 pm via Zoom

Present:

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

Associate Members: Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Invited Guests: Brooke Warrington

Called to order, ~ 6:34 pm by Deb Donaldson

Minutes of meeting on November 17, 2021, approved with minor correction.

Committee members provided updates on action items:

- Marilyn reported Town can provide funds once a reimbursement grant has been awarded, with Suzanne clarifying that it must be approved by Town Meeting
- Marilyn reported she has not heard whether Mary Wigmore conducted the initial walk with teachers
- Marilyn reported that the committee may use the Town website, but the amount of space allotted needs to be clarified
- Suzanne reported that she is waiting to hear back from Sarah Williams regarding people who may be interested in leading a walk through the Town Forest to the Maynard Cemetery.
- Suzanne reported that Peter Freisem invited F&T Committee members to attend Cemetery Commission meeting to discuss collaboration on repairs to Maynard Cemetery.
- Deb confirmed best practices for signage, as reported previously.
- Cynthia reported she was not able to find anyone to confirm location of old growth forest in Conway.

Brooke Warrington addressed questions related to updating the Forest stewardship plans under the Climate Smart Forestry program.

- Priscilla suggested that the plans more clearly reflect that they are intended to address current conditions as well as future changes; climate resiliency be clearly defined; proforestation be included as an option; and that the plans take into consideration changes to surrounding land.

- Brooke confirmed these suggestions could be incorporated into the plans.

The committee voted to endorse going forward with the stewardship plans update.

Deb reported that the MA Trails Grants seem designed for major projects, with grants starting at \$50,000, whereas the Community Forest Stewardship Grants seem to fit nicely with the scope of projects the committee is considering. Discussion around the latter led to a unanimous vote on proceeding with an application for a grant.

- Deb will draft a grant application

Action items include:

- Marilyn will speak with Jaime about her needs and schedule/time line
- Deb will maintain a spreadsheet of potential items for stewardship grant
- Suzanne will find out how the committee can make purchases that are to be reimbursed with funds from awarded grants.
- Suzanne will check in with Sarah Williams about possible guides for walk to Maynard Cemetery
- Suzanne will look into cost of Dreamhost, which offers discounts to non-profits
- Marilyn will check into space allotment on Town website
- Deb will draft a summary of the committee's work for the year-end report
- **Committee members will read the forest stewardship plans prior to next meeting for action items that can be undertaken without expenses**

Next Meeting Date

January 26

Meeting adjourned, ~8:00 pm

Submitted January 27, 2022, by Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary