

Minutes of the Forests and Trails Committee
Town of Conway, Massachusetts
February 23, 2022
6:30 pm via Zoom

Present:

Members: Marilyn Webster, Deb Donaldson, Suzanne Artemieff

Associate Members: Cynthia Lawton-Singer, Courtney Gilligan

Invited Guests: Audrey Boraski, AmeriCorps Volunteer with the Hilltown Land Trust; Janet Chayes & Andy Levchuk of the Conway Open Space Committee

Called to order, 6:34 pm by Deb Donaldson

Minutes of meeting of January 26 approved.

Audrey shared her proposal of creating a trail map the details of which would be determined by the committees overseeing the project. The map can be converted to pdf, which can then be printed for display in a kiosk or for distribution to trail visitors. It was agreed that initially, Audrey should focus on the Fournier and adjacent trails, some of which are privately owned and some of which are owned by Mass Audubon. Jack Lochhead has already agreed to having Audrey map those he owns. The other trails on private land abutting the Fournier property belong to someone outside of Conway, who has confirmed he does not want them displayed on a map; thus, those trails will be omitted. Audrey provided a link to such a map she created for Williamsburg.

Marilyn shared that Mary Wigmore is scheduled to lead a walk of the Fournier trail with Jaime Jackman and other interested teachers on Monday, February 28th. The question of Jaime's request for how the Fournier trail improvement project fits into the larger scope of our work was discussed. There seemed to be agreement that this specific project falls under the broader committee goal of public outreach and education about our forests and their importance, which is one piece of the committee's broader mission as well as one piece of the Fournier Forest Stewardship Plan.

Next steps for organizing a guided public walk to the Maynard Cemetery in the Town Forest were discussed. Depending on availability of those interested in leading the walk, the committee is suggesting either the last weekend in April or the last weekend in May. It was agreed the walk should focus on the historical aspects/interest of the land, but in a simple guided walk format.

Finally, given the staggered nature of committee members' start dates, the idea of a group get-together/team building was discussed. Deb graciously offered to host the tea at her house, with a tentative date/time of Sunday, March 13, 2-4 pm.

Action Items:

- Deb will share the link to the map Audrey created for Williamsburg.
- Marilyn will speak with Jaime Jackman about next steps after the walk with Mary Wigmore has taken place.
- Suzanne will touch base with Sarah Williams to set a date and discuss other details of organizing the guided walk to the Maynard Cemetery.
- Marilyn will speak with Véronique to ensure the committee's team building tea does not run afoul of the Open Meetings law.

Next Meeting Date:

March 23, 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned, ~8:10 pm

Submitted March 24, 2022, by Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary