

Minutes of the Forest and Trails Committee
Town of Conway, Massachusetts
April 27, 2022
6:30 pm Town Hall

Present:

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

Called to order, 6:36 pm by Marilyn Webster

Minutes of meetings of March 23 unanimously approved.

Suzanne and Marilyn provided an update on the Maynard Cemetery walk:

- Suzanne will send out email to all registered participants regarding parking, both where and where not to park, and start point, which is about 0.5 mile past cemetery.
- Suzanne and Marilyn to arrive early to help with parking.

Marilyn provided an update on the 2nd educators walk of the Fournier trail and asked for feedback on document requested by Jaime Jackman providing overview of the Fournier nature trail project and how the school's participation fits into the larger context. Discussion on the following issues:

- How best to reflect perspectives of native people: Priscilla agreed to contact organization in Ashfield to inquire about their interest in consulting and estimate of compensation.
- Selection by 6th grade students of topics for signs and how to ensure the basic goals of the project are reflected: due to limited remaining time of current school year, current class can select topics, which can then be researched, modified and built upon by next year's class.
- Minor edits to document suggested so that signage discussion moves from general categories to specific format, where appropriate, ie, plants.

Mapping of Fournier property and surrounding land was not discussed, as Audrey has been tied up with other work.

Deb provided update on installation of boundary markers and examples of signage:

- Agreement that secondary trails to areas of interest or scenic views should be undertaken to avoid hikers going off trail.
- Due to lack of clarity around web hosting, it was agreed that signs should be temporary markups until that issue is resolved.

- Strongly suggested that committee members visit neighboring guided trails such as those in Shelburne that Deb mailed out.

Marilyn suggested inviting other interested groups to provide input into trail etiquette policies. It was generally agreed that the committee draft a proposal and mail out to interested groups for their feedback.

Finally, Marilyn will speak with Véronique to request that the Select Board not vote on matters that pertain to the Committee's purview without first consulting with the Committee.

Next Meeting Dates:

May 25, 6:30 pm

June 22, 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm