

Minutes of the Forest and Trails Committee  
Town of Conway,  
August 23, 2023  
6:30 pm Town Hall

Present:

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

Associate Members: Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Meeting called to order, 6:34 pm.

Minutes of July 26 were unanimously approved with a minor change.

Update on interpretive walk:

- Marilyn will email each member a set of citation links from the student write-ups; links are to be tested to ensure they work and open in a new tab
- All signs except that for the White Pine are in place. Marilyn will speak with Jaime about possibly replacing. Given the \$25 minimum, we could purchase 2 signs for a tiny bit more than the minimum. It was agreed that if we go that route and both replacement signs are destroyed or stolen, we will not replace again.
- An 8" x 11" sign for trailhead parking will cost \$35.
- Provided photo of kiosk. She will add laminated copy of invasives identification chart and ticks identification when the Rules of the Trail document is finalized.

New officers were elected by unanimous votes:

- Suzanne as co-chair to replace Marilyn
- Priscilla as Secretary to replace Suzanne

Priorities for Stands 1 and 2 from the Town Farm Forest Stewardship Plan were discussed:

- After reviewing the map of the property it was agreed that it would be very helpful if Mary Wigmore could take the Committee on a walk to view the forest boundaries. Marilyn will contact Mary.
- The question of whether the town forest is protected arose and, if not, how it could be, given that the plan indicates the town designated Stand 1 as a pro fore station reserve. Courtney will look into this.
- The following practices were agreed to be of high priority:
  - Protecting red oak seedlings from deer in Stand 2
  - Removal of invasives from Stand 2
  - Maintenance of existing trails

- The following practices were agreed to be of low priority:
  - Developing best practices, except for invasives
  - “Focus tree release”
  - Planting red oaks
  - Building new trails

Cynthia and Deb reported they had another successful invasives removal party, in which a 40’ area near the playground was cleared.

Marilyn reported she is still working to find someone to lead a journaling outing.

The Committee will not have a presence at Festival of the Hills this year.

The following agenda items were tabled until next meeting due to lack of time:

- Rules of the trail for kiosk
- Content for our pages on the town website

Committee will read up on the remaining stands for discussion at next meeting.

Next Meeting:

September 27, 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm