

Minutes of the Forest and Trails Committee  
Town of Conway  
February 28, 2024  
6:30 pm Town Hall

Present:

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

Meeting called to order, 6:32 pm.

The committee met in the Town Hall, as the Town Offices were otherwise in use.

Minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Deb reported on the 2 committees she is part of with the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts.

1. She is on a sub committee of the Indigenous Working Group. This subcommittee is just beginning and has \$10,000 for outreach. They are working on redoing the Land Acknowledgement of the Partnership. She spoke to them re: our committee's plan for partnering with the Native Land Conservancy toward a cultural respect easement. She also spoke to them regarding our thought for a fundraiser for No Loose Braids and the Native Land Conservancy. They did not take an interests in this.
2. She is also on the Conservation Committee: This committee looks at forest based economic development and conservation.

Suzanne and Deb attended a SelectBoard meeting and spoke about the Committee's interest in pursuing a cultural respect easement. The SelectBoard asked for more information.

Suzanne has learned that municipal committees can not fundraise for any private organization, including nonprofits. People can do so as private individuals and Suzanne asked for an email from anyone who would like to pursue a fundraiser as individuals.

Marilyn reported that the registration for the Nature Journaling program through the Conway Cultural Council Grant has been published in the Conway Currents. The day was moved to Sunday, 11-3pm, 4/21, 44/28, 5/5. She reserved the Town Hall for those dates in case of rain.

Deb reported that Veronique, Town Administrator has informed the committee that applications regarding the next phase of the public/private project for carbon credits is coming due. Veronique also notified the Sustainability Committee, a representative of which will attend the Forest and Trails Committee's next meeting. The SelectBoard previously agreed to including the town forests in this project. It is unknown to the Forest and Trails Committee what level this project is at. Suzanne will contact SelectBoard member, Phil Kantor, to get more information.

Suzanne will contact Mary Wigmore to see about scheduling a forest walk in April.

Next meetings: 3/27/24, 4/24/24 and 5/22/24 6:30pm, Town Offices

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm