

## Minutes of Town of Conway Open Space Committee Meeting, July 24, 2023

**Members In Attendance:** Janet Chayes, Michele Turre, Aimee Anderson, Mac McCoy, Renee Ciulla

**Guests:** Jane Roy Brown; Cayte McDonough

Meeting began at 7:15

**Approve June 8, 2023 minutes** - All approved.

### Sign Project - South River Meadow

Jane Roy Brown (professional environmental writer and editor) has volunteered to draft text for the interpretive signage for placement throughout the S. River Meadow. Jane reviewed her thoughts after reading the environmental report that was prepared by noted ecologist Laurie Sanders.

Discussion topics included:

- "A Hard Working Meadow" was suggested and welcomed as the overarching signage theme.
- 9 environmental zones were identified in the Sanders report and would provide the primary resource for signage content.
- It was decided that text should be drafted for a larger introductory sign to locate at the parking lot and max. 6 additional smaller signs that would be placed in proximity to the topic in the meadow.
- Integrating QR codes in the signs to allow visitors to access more detailed info. It was noted that the committee would need to maintain those links to web hosted materials, but that quite a bit of site-specific material was already being hosted on the web.
- Land acknowledgement and some reference to indigenous information.
- Reflecting on the early industrial history of the river.
- Highlighting the historical and current agricultural use.
- Inclusion of before/after photos of meadow restoration work and flood events.
- Anticipation of future flooding and sign resiliency.

Aimee shared images of signage gathered from the web of other places as ideas to consider. She also suggested an article for the Conway Currents highlighting how the 'Hardworking Meadow' managed in the recent flood would be a good way to pave the way to bringing more attention to restoration work that continues in the meadow.

Next steps and schedule. Jane mentioned 3 drafts as the main process. The first draft would be provided by Aug. 8.

### Conservation District Pollinator Grant Program

The Franklin Conservation District organization has funds for programs that Conway could take advantage of for use in developing the Bigelow meadow or other area. More investigation is required. <https://franklinconservationdistrict.org/projects/> (scroll down to the Current Projects section to see what they're doing in Deerfield, Leyden and Charlemont).

### Ongoing Projects

**Nature Hike:** Now scheduled for **Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>** at 10 am. and called *Walk Through the Mass Audubon Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary*

Advertising was to include mention in the Conway Currents. Janet offered to prepare a flyer to be distributed by various committee members at the Library, Post Office, Bakers, etc.

**South River Meadow:** future Woodlands Partnership event on Tree Planting

***Pollinator Garden Update***

Cayte announced that Sunday, Aug. 20, around 9, as the next mulching date for preparation of the pollinator garden in the Veteran's Memorial Park across from Town Hall. Volunteers Sought!

**A motion to close the meeting was approved at 8:37**