

Minutes of Town of Conway Open Space Committee (OSC) Meeting Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6 PM South River Meadow

Members In Attendance: Janet Chayes, Michele Turre, Mac McCoy, Katie Clarke Wendell, Julia Washburn
For Bigelow Meadow discussion: Owen Wormser, Val Anderson & Thomas. John Cordes zoomed in.

Meeting called to order and began at 6:07. (From 5 – 6 pm we hand pulled invasive garlic mustard.)

1. **Approve April 24, 2024 minutes** Approved.

2. Bigelow Property

Owen Wormser, who created the meadow management plan, was present to review the status and plans for the meadow.

Abutters were invited to this meeting & the last meeting in the meadow but only a few had come.

Owen reported that in previous meetings one of the main concerns about efforts to better manage the meadow besides any possible interruption to privacy was dogs.

RE: Maintenance, past and future.

- Mowing that was done last fall was much more selective and thorough than past years when the town did a basic mowing.
 - o The mowing cost was \$2,000.
 - o Annual spring mowings are recommended; none in fall should be needed.
- This season selective maintenance is recommended.
 - o Woody plants such as Black Locust, bracken fern are the most aggressive, as well as poison ivy, and these should try to be removed or cut back.
 - o A spring burn was proposed to the Fire Chief but Select Board said no.

Committee members discussed the type of work and number of hours needed during the growing season to begin to manage the meadow. Paying someone would range from \$25/hour for basic work to \$50-60-75/hour for professional.

The issue of allowing dogs was discussed. It was agreed that only dogs under strict control should be permitted, the same as for the South River Meadow.

A motion was made to create an annual budget of \$4,000 to cover mowing and maintenance. The motion was approved.

3. South River Meadow

Owen was asked about whether goutweed in the meadow could be managed. He pointed out that the meadow is a long-disturbed site, and it would be a huge effort to remove, and not worth it.

Julia presented an updated draft of the 'Hard-Working Meadow' sign project outlining the purpose, goals, accessibility, aesthetics, placement and timeline. She offered to continue to work with the initial sign text that was first drafted by Jane Roy Brown and bring a Power Point to the next meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, at 6pm in Town Hall and/or by Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10pm