

# **Minutes of Town of Conway Open Space Committee (OSC) Meeting**

## **Wednesday, July 9, 2024 6 PM Town Hall**

Members In Attendance: Janet Chayes, Mac McCoy, Katie Clarke Waddell, Julia Washburn, Aimee Anderson  
Meeting called to order and began at 6:07.

### **1. Approve June 18 minutes - So approved.**

### **2. Nature Walk**

Optional nature walks and leaders for early fall that were discussed included:

- a. Areas of main focus included: S. River Meadow, South River State Forest, Jack Lohead's private 'Beaver Trail' off Graves Road, the Conway State Forest area beyond the top of Old Cricket Hill Road (including the "poor farm" and old Maynard Cemetery area.
- b. Nancy Putnam from Warwick is the state ecologist and has been approached to do a walk in the S. River area. She could communicate and focus on what the state has done in any areas in which the state has had a management or restoration program.
  - a. For example, DCR ecologists have been working on removing knotweed from a particular section of South River in the South River State Forest recent years.
- c. Cathy Dean with 'Trotting Fox Programs' from Ashfield is a resource for leading a walk. She is an expert in identifying birds, trees, tracking mammals, etc, and could be asked to lead any group in any area of Conway.

Kids vs. family vs. adult focus for the experience was discussed. It was noted that programs for kids can also be enjoyed by adults, but adult focused experiences are not necessarily good for kids.

The Old Cricket Hill Road/Cemetery was identified as a particularly varied and interesting walk, though some logistics for parking would need to be worked out. Leaders identified to invite included:

- Jack Harrison from the Cemetery Committee
- Cathy Dean as the ecologist.

Date selected was Saturday, October 19, 10am; the weekend following the Festival of the Hills. It was noted that the OSC could table at the Festival and inform townspeople about the walk.

### **3. So. River Meadow Signage**

Julia distributed copies of a new draft for the signage she had prepared, but little time was available to fully review. Janet proposed reconsidering use of the earlier signage theme from a 'hard working meadow' to 'working with nature' to provide a broader integration and context of how both the river and the history of human intervention was at play along with the meadow. OSC members agreed to re-think the current draft in this context. Members are to offer edits on paper to Julia. A brief discussion of integrating a land acknowledgement and recognition of the contribution of the (STATE?) program that funded the planting of nearly 100 trees along the river.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 6pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19pm