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

**March 18, 2025 6 PM *Town Hall***

Members In Attendance: Janet Chayes, Mac McCoy, Aimee Anderson, Julia Washburn

Meeting called to order and began at 6:06

**Agenda**

**1.  Approve Jan. 21 minutes - Approved**

**2.  Opportunity for Land Preservation of Cowls Properties Adjacent to Conway State Forest**

Cowls owns several large parcels (174 and 258 non-contiguous acres)) adjacent to Conway State Forest above Johnny Bean Brook and mostly surrounded by foresed state, town and conservation properties. Janet raised the question of approaching Cowls to consider donating the land to either the town or state to preserve it. The Kestrel Land Trust has worked on land deals with Cowls in the past. Janet offered to speak with the director of Kestrel Land Trust to explore the question.

**3.  So. River Meadow Signage**

The drafting of sign text and design continues. Meanwhile, Jim Richardson, the local locust post dealer who provided posts for the kestrel boxes, and might have provided material for the meadow sign project, has recently passed away. His large supply of locust should remain available.

**4.  So. River Meadow Renovations**

Purple Loosestrife is invading some parts of the meadow. Options to deal with it were discussed, including sheet mulching and targeting flame killing.

**5.  Spring Mowing of the Bigelow Property:**

Janet was recently in touch with Owen Wormser about management of mowing by Nick Potter in spring. Mac will contact Owen to learn about the time frame and update neighbors as a courtesy.

**6. Garlic Mustard Pulling in the So. River Meadow.**

The OSC will consult with local expert Michelle Turre to determine the best dates to schedule a pull event. Julia proposed hosting it as a picnic event to encourage helpers to come, and to post it in the Conway Currents as well as to announce in the OSC email list. Julia volunteered to reach out to the Franklin Co. Technical School, Smith Vocational and/or Frontier High to see if there’s a service learning or ecology class program from which volunteers might be found.

**7. Support for a Gardner to Maintain Town Pollinator Gardens**

Last year about $1,500 was spent from the OSC budget to pay a town employee to maintain the recently installed pollinator garden areas. Janet moved that the committee approve the use of similar funds for this year. The motion was approved.

**8.  New Business – Request and Criteria for Memorials in the So. River Meadow**

A request from a town person was made for a memorial bench to be placed in the meadow. The committee noted the need to develop a policy for managing such requests for the space. Thoughts included benches, or plaques, and for example, should requests also make a donation in addition to pay for the memorial? Aimee offered to look into policies held by other/similar organizations.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at 6pm in Town Hall and/or by Zoom**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm**