

Rockland Preserve

Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting of the Rockland Preserve Management Committee

Members Present(needs to be confirmed): Joe Oslander, Rich Nace, Heather Crawford, Dave Okamoto, Lori Lodge
Others Present: Jason Engelhardt,

Meeting was called to order at 8:07 PM.

Minutes: The minutes from the September 16, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

Coan Pond: The reports have been submitted. The proposed rerouting of the trail on the south side of the pond has triggered a notification process in Hartford, so timely reporting is critical. To do the rerouting, two sections had to be walked by the RWA. Rerouting is now mostly complete. One steep area (opposite end from the outdoor classroom) has been turned into a long swoop and needs a little more work. The section closer to Renee's Way is complete.

Beeline: A new trail connecting Renee's Way parking area to the Singletracks trail system has been completed. It is far enough away from the group campsite to avoid conflicts but takes advantage of the terrain along the way. A second loop off this trail has been flagged but may not be built until spring.

Scouting Activity: The Scouts had their annual Thanksgiving in the woods last weekend. It was a success. Troop 490 is planning a campout on December 5th.

Eagle Scout Projects: Lucas Brown(?), a senior this year, wants to install a kiosk and bench set at the end of the Bambi trail and the confluence of several trails and roads. Engelhardt would like to be the manager/point of contact for any project associated with the Singletracks system. There was a communication lapse and the location for the project was not clarified until the last moment. The suggestion was made that Engelhardt should be listed as primary contact for any Eagle Scout project in Rockland.

Fall Projects Update: Nace did some brush-cutting on the north side of the pond to the water's edge. Trail work was reported above.

Route 79 Parking Area: We are still waiting for the parking lot expansion to get started. There will be a meeting on 11/20 at the site to discuss the parking area, playground and another possible use. There was a question as to whether even doubling the available parking could support two new uses in the area. And it was decided that the parking has to be expanded before anything happens.

Bauer Park Festival debrief: We need more propos to draw people in to the booth (like a trail bike). Now that more people come inform the north parking area, the tents are a better location than where we were this year. It seemed we saw more people when the booth was down in the tent last year.

North Gate: RWA and neighbor met with town about the north gate and blocked access issue and some accommodation is being worked out. Language is being drafted and hopefully the boulders in the roadway will be removed and replaced with something like a gate.

50K Race: There were over 100 runners this year and the handicap-accessible parking area on the way to the outdoor classroom was used for a way station. The town did manage to cut the overhanging tree on the Blue trail before the race.

Committee Vacancy: With Bruce Wilson's election to the Board of Selectmen, he has to step down from our committee so we are looking for a replacement. Oslander is looking for a good worker, "someone who can get out there and get dirty".

2016 Meeting Dates: Oslander proposed and the committee approved the following meeting dates: January 20, March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16. All meeting will start at 8:00PM except for the July meeting which will start at 7:30. Additional work meetings may be scheduled in the alternate months.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

NEXT MEETING: January 20th, 2016 at 8:00 PM at the NMVFC fire house.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Crawford