

**Rockland Preserve Committee Meeting
March 15, 2021**

Attendance:

Dave Okamoto, Lori Lodge, Joe Oslander, Cecily Baran, Tim Burton, Jason Engelhardt

Approval of January 2021 Minutes

Tim made a motion to as presented with Dave seconding the motion. All approved.

Chair's comments:

Tim in used his snowmobile and snow frame to make the roads in top shape for hikes and skiers. Rockland now has viable activity for folks during the winter months. Many took advantage of this.

There will probably be money left over after the purchase of the memorial bench for Florence Oslander that Joe would like to use the money to purchase butterfly bushes and flowers in the vicinity of the bench. The bench will be installed at the playground located at the Rt. 79 entrance of the Preserve.

Update of the monitoring of the Coan Pond trail for January & February

Despite all the snow, we were able to submit more reports than required to the Water Authority. There is a large limb down near the bridge that will require cutting with a chain saw. There are 2 trees that are leaning/hanging over the Coan Pond trail that will require the town to take care of because of the size. Photos will be taken and forwarded to Scot Erskine.

Playground update, Eagle Scout project

The library Eagle Scout project at the Rt. 79 playground site has moved forward, however it is not complete. A tarp is currently over the base. A book drive will soon be commencing to stock the library. We hope to have a mud kitchen and picnic tables also installed.

The playground is being well utilized. The children are loving the playscape and the sandbox. We are waiting for Charlie Iselin to come and cut the trees in the center of the pump track.

There was discussion about getting coverage in the local newspapers regarding all there is to do at Rockland. Will look to do this after the benches and library is installed.

Updates: Parking lot, Benches, Pump Track

In order to add parking to the Rt. 79 lot, we will probably move to move the port-o-lets nearer to the playground. This will also help to keep the children safe.

Rules Committee Update

We are looking at the regulations for Rockland as it has been a while since they were reviewed.

1. E-bikes vs bikes. Do we want to make it clearer that they should not be on the trails? It is difficult to police e-bikes although we do not want them on the trails.
2. Also looking to expand the definition of damaging property to include cutting trees and moving rocks. There have been people doing this to make their own trails. This is a problem as it creates dangerous situations for other people riding the trails if they follow the trails that these folks have made.
3. We will investigate the possibility have having the loss of their bike or other property as part of the consequences of breaking these rules.
4. We will encourage users of the Rockland Preserve to report illegal activity on the property.

Spring cleanup day with volunteers

Tim will help to organize a spring cleanup. We will try to piggyback on the town's Green-up Clean up Day on April 24th.

Snow grooming for next winter include comments on 2021

Tim will groom the fire roads again this coming winter. Seven miles were groomed this year.

What happens after fall removal of invasives; planning at meetings for gardens

Invasive removal will begin in late April and early May. A follow-up application will occur in late July early April. This is a 2-3 year process. Pollinator plantings will be thoughtfully approached to rehabilitate the soil and to plan for future success.

2021 Goals

The committee will independently review the 2021 goals.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2021

Respectfully Submitted: Lori Lodge
