

Rockland Preserve Advisory Committee
Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM
North Madison Congregational Church
1271 Durham Road

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

1. Attendance

David Okamoto, Lori Lodge, Cecily Baran, Bob Kuchta, Austin Hall, Ed O'Malley, Jason Engelhardt, Joe Oslander

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Joe Oslander

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion – Bob, Dave 2nd, Unanimous

4. Chair's comments

A Clinton Boy Scout Troup who recently camped at Rockland expressed how happy they were with the camp and want to know when they are returning.

We are in a drought and there is a fire ban. Carrie from Beach & Rec has been asked to inform all campers that they may not have fires – even in the fire pits.

REPORTS

5. Chair's comments

New Business

Ed O'Malley joined the group tonight as the new liaison to Beach & Rec.

Old Business

Reports

Coan Pond – no report

Jason reported on Green-up Clean-up day at Rockand. It was a rainy day and there was low attendance. The picnic table at the Rt. 79 entrance needs repair. After discussion, it was decided that all of the wooden slots should be replaced as the wood is rotting. Jason will work with scouts to replace all slots. Many trees are falling on the preserve and the Beech trees are dying due to nematodes.

Cecily reported on the Pollinator Garden. A workday has been scheduled for June 3 to plant new plants. More wood chips are needed, an information box will be installed, and a plaque will be installed on the rock. Two viewing platform stands will be installed as a Boy Scout Eagle Project. One is closer to the garden and will go up to the edge of the water. The other will be installed further along where the peninsula is on the northeast side of the pond. There was a discussion about signage to direct people to the Pollinator Garden. There will be a celebration event on Sat. July 8th 9:00 to 10:15 am. Cecily connected with the invasive manager from the Regional Water Authority and was able to walk around the pond with him when he visited Rockland. He is very pleased with the work that has been done. Permitting under way for treatment of Invasive phragmites.

Austin discussed having hand pumps for water. It is not recommended. What is recommended is installing an underground water tank that works with gravity. The committee discussed the possibility of potable water and decided that it is best to have the water available for the fire pits but not as potable. Individuals who are hiking through on the Blue Trail through the preserve and camping there will have their own filtration system. The committee does not feel that it is possible to be able to provide potable water. The committee agreed to move forward with a buried 250-gallon tank that will be filled a couple of times a year.

Jason made motion to install a 250-gallon tank to be buried near the scout camp site, to purchase a storage shed at the Rt 79 entrance, to build two-foot bridges in the areas near the small “waterfalls”, and to fix the bridge on the white trail. Cecily second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.