

Rockland Preserve Committee Minutes

November 15, 2021

Attendance: Joe Oslander, Jason Engelhart, Cecily Baron, Lori Lodge, Dave Okamoto, Tim Burton, Austin Hall

September 2021 minutes approved: Discuss and action
Changes - None
Approved unanimously with one abstention – Lori Lodge

Chair's report –

October activities- Bimblers Bluff 50 K, 112 participants, 100 finished, winner's time 4 hrs, 21 min.

On October 23 Quinnipiac U. volunteers helped to clear the area on north end of pond area that has been designated as the area that the pollinator garden will be planted. They also cleared the area around playground where a pollinator garden will be planted.

Eagle Scout project –

The outdoor classroom completed. The old and rotting benches have been replaced. All of the old materials (untreated wood) were taken to the camp site for use by the scouts.

Updates –

As stated above, the invasives have been removed on the north end of the pond and the area will receive another treatment in the spring. The committee hopes to be able to start preparing the area for planting the following spring.

The phragmites will need treatment in 2022.

Cecily met with some area experts regarding types of plants that would do well in the that north end area and have worked on other pollinator projects. Two businesses are putting together proposals which include the types of plants, cost of preparing the area, etc. The grant committee is being formed by the town currently and the application process will then be determined. Once the application has been formed, the committee will submit an application for the pollinator garden.

This committee needs to put together a budget for 2022 projects to be included in the town's next fiscal year budget.

The committee is requesting \$750 for signs which will be made by a local school. We will need to pay for the supplies. Austin told the committee that there currently was money for that project.

Jason reported that the pump track as it is in really good shape. Committee decided to wait until spring to do further work on it.

The CPFA trail work is complete and is in good shape. New signage has been hung indicating the changes to the trail.

In 2022, Jason will work on updating our current Rockland map and it will be posted.

The committee discussed how we can maintain access to Poole Road that meets the needs of the town's emergency services and Mr. Holleran. Austin will follow up with zoning enforcement officers regarding issues at the North end of the property on Poole Road.

Survey completed to determine the property boundaries at the Renee's Way parking lot. A temporary fence will be put up on the border and a split rail fence will be put in place in the summer. The committee has received some complaints about the use of heavy equipment in the area of the parking lot, loud noise, and large trucks parking just outside of the parking lot.

Signage regarding parking for emergency vehicles has been hung in the Rt. 79 parking lot. It was noted that the designated area does get quite wet and that blue stones should be laid to help mitigate the risk of emergency vehicles getting stuck.

All required reports for the Coan Pond trail have been submitted as required by the RWA.

January meeting will include the election of officers.

Next meeting: January 10, 2022

2022 meeting dates:

January 10 – North Madison Fire House

March 21 – North Madison Fire House

May 16 – Rockland

July 18 – Rockland

September 19 – Rockland

November – North Madison Fire House

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lodge