

1651. FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
31 January 2023

Members Present: Mike Harnett, Chair: Steve Gulrich, Friends rep, Henry Lind, Saul Fisher, Stephen Smith

The meeting was called to order by Michael Harnett, committee chair, at 5:05 o'clock. Mike introduced Steve Smith as the newest member of the Committee who will continue Janet Benjamins unexpired term as she has taken another position.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Henry moved, Steve seconded that they be approved without correction. SO VOTED unanimously.

1651 Friends Report : Steve Gulrich

Steve announced that Bob McLucky has retired from the Friends board and Molly Chapman has replaced his position. The Friends account balance is on the order of \$15,000. And we will be initiating a scholarship program for high school seniors who are anticipating pursuing a career in environmental science. There will be three separate scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

The Fall planting plan took place 22 November 2022 as the third in the series of restoration plantings in the southeast corner of Wiley where the unleashed dog activity has destroyed much of the vegetative cover. 10 Beach Plum, and 3 Scrub Oak were added to the same area behind the fence as the last planting to fill the area in more.

The next meeting of the Friends will be 13 February. 11 Ink Berry will be the Spring planting,

There was discussion about various social trails which are being increased by way of both human and canine access to the pond shores. It was decided that that matter is not within the scope of the Committee's authority but that it should be conveyed to the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee. Placing brush along the access points is one method to deter use but results in circumventing with other trails.

A discussion about revegetating the triangle area to the west of the present restoration effort continued.

Planting List

Discussion continued about the list of approved plants which is distributed by the Conservation Commission for use in wetland buffer zones (within 100 ft of wetlands).

Invasion Biology

The chair introduced a page of ideas on the subject of Invasion Biology (attached as an appendix) with respect to the notion of invasive species and their role in the forest habitat. The document outlines the basic tenets of modern invasion biology which postulates that 'native' species are superior in their ability to sustain a given habitat including the other species which depend on those species.

Mike feels that the current rate of climate change renders the concept of native plants meaningless and that there has been little scientific evidence produced to support the assumptions that native species are superior to introduced species. No conclusion was drawn nor votes taken as to the application of the theory to the mission statement of the 1651 Forest project:

Create a succession program that will replace in natural sequence, the existing Wiley Park flora with a semblance of the forest primeval that blanketed the area in 1651. Strict attention will be paid to native species, natural density and ecological integrity. The existing forest will be nurtured and sustained while the new growth establishes itself.

Mapping Project:

Henry outlined that the planted species on 22 November have been identified, mapped and measured.

His use of the Survey 123 app to rapidly assist with the measurements of other species was moderately successful but the app will need adjustment to make it more user friendly.

Restoration of disturbed area and future planting plans.

The next planting by Friends will be in the April (date TBD) and will consist of 20 scrub oak plants.

Next Meeting :
6 June 2023

Motion made to adjourn at 6:08 PM by Stephen Smith
Saul seconded the motion

SO VOTED unanimously

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Henry Lind