

1651 Forest Advisory Committee
1 February 2022 7:00 PM

Via ZOOM

MINUTES

Members present: Michael Harnett, Chair, Henry Lind, Saul Fisher

Apologies: Janet Benjamins

Guests: Steve Gulrich, Friends of 1651, Frances Lewes, Open Space Committee

The chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Mike reminded the members of the requirement to complete the online ethics training and submit the certificate to the Town Clerk's office.

The minutes of February 27 2017 were unavailable but none of the members had corrections or alterations.

1651 FRIENDS REPORT:

Steve outlined the survey that was done recently of the members which confirmed the agreement to not have any plantings last Fall but to monitor the blueberries and keep a close watch on the black cherries. Some of those plantings have succumbed and will need attention. Maintenance was performed in the Fall around several planting areas.

The Friends will be involved with the remediation of the dog swimming area at Wiley Park as it continues. The planting site for the Spring activity will focus there.

The species to be planted will be ordered soon in order to get delivery by April.

The Friends will help with the fencing to be installed in the restoration area.

The scholarship recipient from the Friends who is enrolled at U Vermont is doing well academically with GPA of 4.0 in her first semester.

SPRING PLANTING / RESTORATION OF DISTURBED AREA

The sketch of the fence line proposed to protect the habitat was shared and while the area is similar the material will be snow fence which can be removed once the plants are established.

Frances Lewes reported that she had spoken with Silvio Genao, Superintendent at the DPW and he has offered rolls of snow fencing for the project. Frances has two rolls at this time but more are available. The Friends will be able to assist with the purchase and installation of more fencing. Discussion included the need for a gap of

some sort to allow the volunteers who would be bringing water to the blueberries and new plantings without damaging the fence line.

The planting plan would include the disturbed area to the maximum amount possible and the Friends had proposed Bayberry and Scrub Oak. Discussion continued about the ratio and numbers of individual plants. The decision was to purchase 15 bayberry plants (mixed male and female plants) and 5 Scrub Oak.

MOVED by Henry the planting of 15 Bayberry and 5 Scrub Oak for the Spring planting

SECONDED by Saul

SO VOTED unanimously

Inasmuch as the project is within 100 feet of the wetland area it will need to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission and a Request for Determination of Applicability is the most likely scenario for approval. Mike will get in touch with Chuck Katuska, the agent for the Commission to finalize details.

Further discussion continued regarding protective fencing around the blueberry plants and the decision was to allow that to remain for another growing season.

MAPPING

Henry outlined his thoughts on continuing monitoring of growth and survival by volunteers which will be less technically challenging than GPS location. Survey123 is an ESRI option that can be scripted for volunteers to use with a smartphone or tablet that will allow simple input of the details for any plant that has a tag visible. It is felt that most of the plantings now have a secure and legible tag so these observations can be made without fanfare.

Henry will field check the app and provide instructions and guidance.

Mike observed that there are many volunteer specimens that are thriving in the park and they should be mapped as general information. That will require accurate GPS coordinates and discussion continued as to the use of newer cell phone GPS functions.

Additional discussion about the peer reviewed papers that were distributed by the chair documenting the nature of the forests in Cape Cod National Seashore and elsewhere as predominantly pine oak mixtures. The fact that the colonial destabilization of the forest was so complete as to allow sand dune formation in the southwest part of Wiley park suggests that the forest habitat is unrecoverable.

The additional plants that were suggested by Russ Norton of Barnstable County Extension were discussed including and the thought was to simply adopt the Native

Plants of Massachusetts as the potential list of possible plantings. These species including Indigo are considered beneficial, pollinators and there are other advantages to having them in the planting list.

Discussion about a report to the Select Board with additional information about plantings list was inconclusive at this time but will need to happen.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

No other topics were brought to the attention of the members.

NEXT MEETING

MOVED by Saul to schedule the next meeting for 7 June 2022 with the format to be determined

SECONDED by Henry

SO VOTED unanimously.

With thanks to Frances Lewes and the Open Space Committee for their support the Chair closed the meeting at 7:53PM

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Lind

Other Business

New Business

Next Meeting

Adjournment