

Forest Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2023 5:00, Eastham Library

**Open Meeting:** 5:05 PM

**Members Present:** Michael Harnett (chair), Henry Lind, Stephen Smith, Saul Fisher, Steve Gulrich

**Approve Minutes:**

Minutes for meeting January 13, 2023 (Henry Lind) were unanimously approved with minor grammatical corrections.

**1651 Friends Report:**

Steve Gulrich reported that the previous plantings within the fenced restoration area were generally in good condition and were filling in the space quite well. There was no obvious evidence of animal intrusion.

The Spring Planting, April 22, was successful but the original plan for Scrub oak was abandoned because no straight species could be located. After discussing the situation, Steve Gulrich and Mike agreed to substitute *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry) which was available. Rabbit fencing was placed around the individual 20 plants. The planting and watering teams have attempted to help delineate the triangular section by placing some logs and branches along the paths in the area.

Scholarship Program: The Friends have received over 10 applications for the three \$1000 scholarships offered this year, all from Nauset High students.

Steve G. mentioned that there has been some discussion within the Friends regarding the recent concentration of plantings only within the restoration area and how that fits in with the focus and mission of the 1651 Forest Project which embraces the entirety of Wiley Park. He suggested that it might be helpful if a few members of the FAC and the Friends came together for a walkabout prior to the fall planting in an effort to promote clarification of the current and ongoing planting effort. There was unanimous agreement on this proposal and a tentative date for a walk was set for **9:00, August 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Park Status:**

There was a discussion regarding recent observations of canine activity in the park. In general, it was agreed that the members haven't seen the larger "packs" of animals and that, for the most part, walkers seem to be respectful of others on the trails. It was suggested that Covid may be part of the picture but it can't be ruled out that summer crowds might again be an issue.

**Conservation Regulations:**

Mike distributed copies of the Eastham Conservation Area Regulations (1991, revised 2015) and a summary of the recent Conservation Commission/Open Space Committee (April 2023) proposals for new dog regulations in Wiley and Nickerson parks. He said that recently the Select Board has declared that they do not have oversight of the parks, that the parks are considered Conservation areas and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Henry observed that he thought the deed for Wiley Park expressly placed ownership with the "Inhabitants of Eastham" which would give the Select Board regulatory control. This will need to be clarified.

Saul Fisher (Open Space liaison) described a recent meeting with Mike and the Eastham Dog Owners Association president, Ed Daniels, where there was good general agreement that all the parties need to work together in first evaluating canine activity on the park trails. They came up with the idea of a Wiley Park Monitoring Program. Ed presented a proposed an observation checklist for volunteer teams from all interested parties and also suggested a dog owner training program. All FAC members thought this was potentially a very good milestone. Francis Lewis, Open Space Committee chair, is heading up the program.

There was a discussion about limiting new offshoots from the trails. Mike showed conflicting copies of town maps that may seem to show possible access to Bridge Pond by kayaks and he said Paul Lagg is investigating the maps.

**Mapping:**

Henry distributed an updated map showing the newly planted Inkberry specimens. The mapping is coming together nicely. After hearing about the observed Beech tree problems in the Provincelands, he made an effort to seek out the five specimens planted by the Friends (2003, 2005) and one volunteer Beech. Although he could only locate the planted trees, they all seemed free of disease and four were pushing 30 feet in height.

**New Business:**

Henry reported that he has been allowed to remain on the FAC for another term.

**Next meetings:**

August 15, 9:00AM	Field walkaround with 1651 Friends
September 19, 5:00	Meeting, Library

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Gulrich, acting clerk