

Conservation_Minutes_10.15.2020 via Zoom

Attending: Linda Lembke, Linda Hecker, Bill Jewell, Steve Soszynski, Marli Rabinowitz, Anne Montgomery, Bevan Quinn, Karen Murphy

Not attending: Susan Bonthron, Michael Becker

Guest: Patti Smith

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Minutes from September 17 accepted unanimously.

Action Steps reviewed.

Weeks Forest Trail:

Proposed bridge: Dave Eastman looked at Bill's split locust for construction material. Hemlock "bridge": Linda Lembke will be checking with the new sixth grade teacher at Guilford Central School about whether she will be taking the class for Forest Fridays on the trail and what might be the use of the bridge. Otherwise the trees can be cut up with a chainsaw and distributed through the forest as the GCC does not want to have them remain where they are.

Trail extension: This is on hold until the spring when we can again apply for an AVCC Tiny Grant.

Natural Resource Inventory: Patti Smith gave us a thorough update about her summer and fall work in the field. She would like to visit two other large parcels and was encouraged to contact the owners personally. We mentioned several other places that she might investigate such as the quarry at Fort Dummer State Park.

EAB Grant Proposal:

Several members of the GCC and interested parties have been gathering information about distributions of the ash trees that will be cut down. Linda Hecker reported that, on closer reading of the grant, we will need to include tree replacement as part of the grant proposal. Bill suggested that we replace trees in riparian areas. This kind of planting has already been done in Guilford can be used as guidance on appropriate tree/shrub species.

The working group also suggested that we hire a consulting coordinator to facilitate the process from tree removal to distribution of wood. Also, high school students who need to fulfill their community service requirement might be utilized to deliver and stack fire wood.

Collaborative updates:

GRWA reports that four of five sites identified in the geomorphological study have been finished including removal of the berm on the Neuhauser property on Green River Road.

The Forest Connectivity group is in the process of writing their full report. It should be useful in writing town plans.

Other business:

Linda L looked at the Warren Conservation Commission's management of knotweed which involves mechanical cutting and drying over a period of time. With the help of the Recreation Commission, removal of knotweed at the PlayScape might be a good way to test this method and serve as a model for Guilford residents.

Next meeting is November 19 at 5:30 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Guilford Conservation Commission Clerk