



TOWN OF PELHAM 6 Village Green Pelham, NH 03076

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA / MEETING NOTES

March 28th 2022

7pm-9pm

Meeting place: Sherburne Hall 6 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076

Public meeting

Attendance :

Charlie Gale

Bob Lamoureux

Linda Irish-Simpson

Chris Gallagher

Stefenie Cote

Ray Brunelle

Nick Spanos

Mary Hathaway

Deb waters- Forestry advisor

Jaie Bergeron- Forestry selectman lesion

March 28th 2022 Agenda/ Meeting minutes

Open 7:03 pm Adjourn 8:46pm

Open forum- public in the building-

Derek Pomerleau- Beaver trapper professional sent us a quote to trap the beavers at Gumpus Pond. The beaver population has grown quite a lot, causing flooding of trails, and they are becoming invasive.

The committee has agreed this is a problem and agreed to the quoted terms that Derek proposed. Mary will send Derek an email of acceptance of the quote and Derek will get to work as early as next week of April 4th.

Beaver deceivers should be cleaned out monthly to work efficiently.

Open forum- public through email (Charlie) -

One email complaint about trail markers that Charlie addressed and took care of.

Veterans Park- Gps, new trail and updates + Hike challenge update (Linda)

The green trail is a new trail which I recently marked and made other slight changes to the blue trail. (Map of Linda's new gps is on the bottom of this doc) Brian at Parks and Rec decided to post it on their website but not on Forestry to become part of the Hike Challenge since it is restricted to town residents only and for the safety of the kids during the summer camp. He will try to get a scout to build two kiosks to post the maps and other information.

Hike challenge update-(Linda)

15 humans and 1 dog

Early Successional Habitat Project at Gumpus Pond.(Chris + Deb)

This project has been ongoing for 10 years in hopes of forming a shrub habitat for the endangered New England cottontail bunny, many birds, and many other wildlife species who thrive in this low thick shrubby environment.

For the past 10 years, Ted Kendiora, a Project Wildlife Biologist for US Fish & Wildlife Services, has been spearheading this project and has been seeing signs that the project is working and producing the environmental benefits we were hoping for. Forestry has only had to be responsible for field mowing and invasive plant spraying performed by our forester Eric Radlof. (We would like to invite Ted to a trail walk meeting to discuss the progress and answer any questions the committee may have.)

Update on gates, class 6 roads were voted to be turned into class A trails (Charlie)

Posts are in/ Gates should be in the first week of April.

Charlie will touch base with the Pelham Police Chief about camera patrol.

Update on timber harvest at Merriam Farm (Paul)-

This has been pushed out until April.

Merriam Farm mowing quote from Eric Radlof (Paul)

Update for April's meeting

Wolven Park conservation Area -Handrail on steep section of trail - (Deb)

Deb suggests a sturdy handle or a two rope concept on the steeper section of the trail off the pipeline. One rope higher for adults and one lower for children.

Project Learning Tree- educational curriculum program that focuses on hands-on environmental education. (Deb, Stefenie)

This has been included in our management plans for years and it just never took flight. Stefenie is willing to take this on. Stefenie will have the creative freedom to grow this program the way she sees fit, with the support of the Forestry Committee and committee advisor, Deb Waters. Jaie suggested Stefenie reach out to Brian J. at parks and rec and use their resources to get the program started.

Community garden update (Bob)-

The garden club took this on with Al Steward and they have come up with a plan.

Elderly/ Handicap trail access ideas

Chris and Deb suggest that Merriam Farm, when done, should be a pretty flat and manageable trail system for wheeled chairs and walkers.

Issues regarding putting boulders back in place after snowmobile season. -

This may cause an issue because the swale off the Spring St trail. This swale is inspected yearly by the town engineer and this area needs to be protected from litter and atv damage. Mary will email both the police chief and the fire chief for clarity.

Mary will be absent April 25th

Bob will run the meeting

Charlie will take notes

Vote on February's meeting minutes-

Everyone agreed with the meeting minutes.

April trail walk

Wednesday April 13th at 4:30pm- Please let me know which one you think takes priority at this time.

- 1) Meet at the New England cottontail habitat run by Ted. Discuss progression and ask any questions we may have.
- 2) Meet off Aspen Dr Trailhead to Cutter Spalding with Tim Kennedy, to assess trail damage and the work that needs to be done as soon as the gates are installed.

AGENDA for APRIL 25th

Open forum in person

Open forum via email (Charlie)

Beaver trapping update (Derek Pomerleau)

Ted- Mary invited Ted to the meeting. Did not hear back yet if he will be able to come. If Ted does come, he can answer any questions about the progress of the New England cottontail habitat

Merriam Farm Timber Harvest update (Paul)

Merriam Farm mowing quote from Eric Radlof (Paul)

Wolven Park conservation area handrail on Steep section of trail -VOTE- (Deb suggested either a sturdy railing or a 2 rope system. One high level for adults and one lower level for children.) Sara and Dorayne from Hobbs community center, have general recommendations for age-friendly trails and specific recommendations for Wolven. See their recommendations below.

(April 5, 2022

Deb,

Thank you for asking me and Dorayne to join you and Chris today on the Wolven Park trail. I am so thrilled to be included in the conversation on making age friendly trails and outdoor spaces!

Age Friendly Trails Pelham NH: For inclusion on this list, trails must have minimal elevation change, (and proper safety rails or steps for excessive grade) minimal root and rock impediment and should be mostly wide enough for two people to walk side by side. Additionally, having benches every $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, and adequate parking and proximity to restrooms/porta-potty is a desirable.

With the goal to make the age friendly outdoor spaces more abundant in Pelham we are making the following recommendations for Wolven Park:

Add a hand railing to the step section at the start to the trail.

Grade that same section- possibly edge it to keep it level and identify the edge so that someone doesn't easily fall off or step off it.

In areas where the trail is narrow, widen it as to fit 2 persons side by side comfortably

Remove rocks and stumps throughout the trail. Those that can't be removed should be spray painted with florescent yellow paint

In areas where the trail goes through rock walls, remove rocks, when possible, to create a smoother transition.

In wetland areas, add surface pack to absorb water and create a less slippery stepping area. Move the trail to avoid proximity to wetlands

For bridges, make sure to shorten the step off/up and add soil or pack where needed. Possible handrail could be added to support those coming on or off the bridge.

If possible lower trail markers, or at minimum add signage at the trail head to look "UP" for trail markers. Also put logs across trails that are not "officially" part of the Wolven Park system.

Add one bench on the blue trail, just after the first corner.

One last issue; parking. It would be in a perfect world to have better parking and room for folks to maneuver their vehicles.

We both found Woven park an easy hike and would be manageable to folks who were not dealing with mobility issues.

Other recommendations for this site would include adding some shade plants along the wooded trails to enhance the scenery as well as wildflowers and/or plants that attract butterfly's and birds in and around Diane's Field.

Again, thank you for including us and we look forward to viewing additional areas with you!

Sincerely,

Sara Landry

Director of Senior Programs at the Hobbs Community Center.)