

Greenfield Conservation Commission(GCC)

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

Recorded by Michelle Hall

Members Attending: Karen Day, Kristine Hall, David Hall, Tom Bregani, Brenda Gollihue, Kate Dean

Excused Members: Candi Fowler

Guest: Shannon Billodeau, Dave Thimmel

7:00 pm Karen called the meeting to order.

Discussion with Shannon Billodeau and Dave Thimmel about site prep for the pollinator garden at Oak Park. What role the Commission will play and approval of any expense.

Karen provided Dave and Shannon with a list of site prep and plant ideas provided by Jeff from Moosewood. Dave described the planned garden at Oak Park to be a 20'x40' kidney type shape which would be easier to manage should he be the only person involved. The Oak Park Committee (OPC) would like to plant two memorial trees for volunteers in town who have passed, at the edge of the garden. He has already obtained a Dwarf Maple for Mary Ann Grant and another tree for Mike Gaspar, neither have been planted yet. Dave feels that he is able to get the excavation part completed before the end of the year and still needs to work with DPW Director Jim Morris to get the equipment needed to complete the work, however, Oak Park will be done with the Farmer's Market after this upcoming weekend allowing Dave more time to work on the project. Dave and David determined that 30 yards of loam are needed for this size garden. Karen explained that the GCC would like to see an interpretive sign and, they know of a company who would be able to print a color sign with what is planted in the garden. Moosewood is able to supply the plants at a discounted rate which would be paid for by the GCC. There does have to be a community event for the planting though. The OPC would like to schedule this around the Roadside Roundup but not on the same day. Karen will ask Jeff from Moosewood to attend the November 29th meeting and will update Dave with his answer. Brenda motioned to purchase 30 yards of loam for OPC. Seconded by Kate. Motion passed, all were in favor.

Dave and Shannon left the meeting.

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

David motioned to accept meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Kristine. Motion passed, all were in favor.

Current Business:

1. 2024 Budget (must be submitted asap): The GCC discussed additional edits to the budget. David motioned to accept the updated budget. Seconded by Brenda. Motion passed, all were in favor.
2. The Commission discussed using the conservation fund to pay for someone to remove the poison ivy from the Blacksmith parking lot area and pathway from the school to the community garden field. The GCC would want to talk with the Selectboard regarding a plan for that area. One idea that was discussed is a Veteran's Park in this area or even a general memorial. Many

people in the town discussed wanting to do something like this for a long time. A federal grant may be an option as well. The VFW may not have money to donate but they may have people willing to volunteer.

3. Programs: David:
 - Bobcat Program Critique: All those who attended thought this was excellent
 - Next program: Winter Hiking
 - Date for the January program is 1/4/24
4. Next Article for the Spirit
 - Article for the Dec/Jan issue – deadline November 1st: David will write a winter hiking article. He also discussed maybe a Saturday winter hike the first weekend in January at the state park. This is pending the park being open, David will look into this.
 - Article for the Feb/March issue – Tom will write an article on nature in winter. The GCC discussed a possible end of winter walk.
5. Hazards at the Blacksmith parking lot and the Fire Dept. lot
 - Next steps: The GCC discussed someone making a sketched plan for the pathway and area surrounding the pond to send to JB Mack to let him know what the GCC is hoping to do with this area. The GCC will discuss this with the Selectboard to let them know what they are hoping to do.
 - David will talk with the poison ivy lady to get an estimate and get on her schedule for next year. This will give them a starting point.

8:34 pm David motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Brenda. Motion passed, all were in favor. The next meeting of the GCC will be 7:00 pm November 29th, downstairs in the meeting room at the town offices.