

Rockland Preserve Committee Meeting

May 17, 2021

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Attendance:

Cecily Baran, David Okemoto, Jason Engelhardt, Joe Oslander, Timothy Burton, Lori Lodge

Approval of March Minutes:

Cecily - motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jason - seconded the motion. All Approved.

Discussion of relocation of Poole Road section of Mattabesett Trail (Blue Trail)

Rick Huntley CT Forest and Park (CFPA) presented to the committee the CFPA request to re-locate Poole Rd section of the Mattabesett Trail (Blue Trail). Rick presented a brief explanation on why they are interested in the trail relocation, the proposed trail, attractive features and maintenance. They are looking to move trail because of significant flooding that often occurs. It is the recommendation of the committee that the town put in a new culvert to help ease some of the flooding that occurs regularly.

CFPA does management of the Blue Blazed trail. Committee discussed concern regarding cost of replacing signs. CFPA will send a formalize plan for this new trail so that there is a record of their commitment to it's management and the CFPA's commitment to pay for the signs.

The committee has no concerns about the relocation of the trail. Jason made a motion to approve the proposed relocation of the trail. Tim second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Coan Pond Report

Rich has submitted the most recent reports.

Green up- Cleanup day

Tim reported 24 people came to green up clean up. Crews cleaned up trash in Rt. 79 parking lot, playground and area along road. They also did trimming on trails.

Chair's report

Eagle Scout project- The Eagle Scout will start working on replacing the tables and benches at the outdoor classroom. Committee discussed putting in a trash can as there is a lot of trash being left behind. The memory benches in honor of Florence Oslander and Jason's father are in place. The boards at the playscape still need to be fixed and the door to the library is being replaced.

The individual fire pits at the campsite have not been removed. The town was going move the rocks that make up the fire rings at the many sites that have been made by individuals at the campsite.

Update town ordinances for Rockland Preserve, name, motorized vehicles, and penalties

We need to work with the town and then with the police before we move any further on the updates to the ordinances. The committee discussed two issues of concern. The first being the trucks that are blocking Poole Road and on the Rockland Preserve itself. They have been parked there for quite some time. It

does not appear that the owner has any intentions of moving them to his property. The committee recommends that the town attorney send a letter to the owner asking that they be moved by a specific time or they will be towed. The second concern is at the Renee's Way entrance. It appears that a business with large equipment and trucks is being run out of the home that sits to the right (east) of this entrance. It has been observed that the owner's woodchipper has been used in the parking lot of the preserve. The owner's trailer, trucks and equipment are often parked in the could-a-sac and in the road. A number of trees have been removed adjacent to the Rockland Preserve. The committee recommends surveying the property and has concerns that a business is being run out of a residential area.

Playground and plantings, work at pump track site for emergency vehicles, etc

Bob Blundon has volunteered to plant a variety of native plants.

Pump track will be resurfaced. Iselan Tree Experts cleared trees in the center of the pump track.

Parking lot expansion

The Rt. 79 parking lot will soon be expanded to accommodate multiple rows of parking which will increase the number of vehicles that can be parked there at once. The picnic tables and port-o-lets will be moved as part of the expansion.

Poole road/ Dead Hill Road with gate

The committee recommends that the three large rocks at Poole Road be removed and replaced with a gate at gate.

Other

Tables need to be sealed at the Rt. 79 parking lot. Lower branches of the pines need to be removed at the base of the entrance from the Renee's Way entrance. The committee will come in with loppers.

The Russian Olive have not been treated. Cecily put in a call and has not heard back from Dave.

Next meeting – July 19th at the 79 parking lot.