

Rockland Preserve Committee

No. Madison Fire House

Meeting called to order 7:05, 9/20/21

In attendance: Joe Oslander, Cecily Baran, Tim Burton, Dave Okomoto, Jason Engelhardt, Austin Hall

Minutes of July meeting approved 7:07.

New business:

Daniel Ginsburg refinished the podium at the outdoor classroom and cleaned up the classroom area. This is his Eagle Scout project.

Bimble's Bluff race is back. Russ Hammond is in charge. Planned for Sunday, 10/24. Aid station within Rockland. Appx 100 participants. Request to not use paint on rocks or as a marker. Dave O. will check route for tree problems prior to the race. Dave O will look at alternate routing around an existing tree problem. Dave will also look for improved trail locations for the trail from Renee's Lot to Coan Pond.

Coan Pond has been reported adequately. Thank you to the reporters.

Autumn Olive invasive spraying was repeated, things are looking better but will be coming back in the spring. Cecily is looking to start planting in Autumn of 2022. Concern with existing seeds left behind and restarting growth.

Cecily is working to prepare a grant application for the American Rescue Fund dollars. Board of Selectmen just put out notice for members of a committee to allocate Rescue funding. Many groups will apply, but the grant is for specific needs. Cecily's interested is applying for funds that could support a pollinator garden at Coan Pond. She has been speaking with a number of experts and is planning a walk for Wednesday at 5 PM.

Other potential projects for ARF money include bathroom at 79 lot, East Wharf, West Wharf. Joe is interested in a well for the campsite area.

CFPA has not given notice of completion of the new trail. Rockland Advisory Committee is looking for an update and planned timeline for completion.

Joe and Austin met with John DeLauro, Zoning Enforcement Officer at property near North Gate. John sent cease and regarding cars and junk on the Madison owned land across from his property.

Recommendation to move gate so that it blocks access past the turn around North Gate.

John Delauro also looked at the property next to the Renee's Way parking lot. Town plans to survey boundaries and install a fence that marks boundary and looks appropriate.

Austin met with Chris Bernier and Russ Pierson about emergency parking. Jason requested that the foliage in that area be reduced to allow improved emergency parking access.

Follow up on liability of board members. There is liability coverage provided by the town for board members, so long as there is nothing malicious. Response from Lauren Rhines is included at the end of these minutes.

Tim mentioned that the overgrowth onto trails is excessive and we need trimming. Jason will reach out to volunteers that are willing to push back brush. Tim is also interested in replacing signs around Rockland bike trails as his own project. Austin recommends he create a budget for the project and that can be included as a Rockland expense.

Dave O and Joe are interested in identifying where the worst drainage spots are so that perhaps water bars can improve trails and roads.

Resurface of pump track was a success. Vendor did a professional job adding material, smoothing surface, removing foliage. Will add another layer of clay to finalize project in late November.

Committee recommends that we meet with Eagle Scouts prior to approval and be apprised of progress.

Map QR code post at 79 lot should be moved.

Jason will be speaking with press this week to highlight the natural playground.

Next meeting November 15,2021, firehouse, 7 PM

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Town protection for members of Boards and Commissions, mentioned in notes:

The Town insures all Public Officials acting on behalf of the Town of Madison – including appointive officials to Boards and Commissions. CIRMA provides coverage under our Liability (1,000,000/claim limit) and Excess Liability (10,000,000/claim limit) policies for claims and damages; and legal defense for the Official not to exceed \$10,000/claim.

In addition, the Town has a separate Liability and Excess Liability Policies for Rockland to cover damages and expenses on behalf of the Town

related to any claims arising at Rockland.