

# Skaneateles Conservation Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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Date: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Skaneateles Town Hall

Attendees:

N. Murray, R. Nonenmacher, B. Sykes, D. Laxton, F. Scholl, T. Brooks, M. Zuber

Meeting commenced at 7PM and ended at 8:45PM

- Discussed the need for “Directors” for various projects
  - Will appoint on an “as needed basis”
  - Fishing Derby needs a Director
  - Suggestion was made to ask the Skaneateles Rod & Gun Club to take over administration of the Fishing Derby. The Conservation Committee would assist as appropriate
  - Suggested to open the Derby up to more than the Town of SKF
  - It was suggested the Organization plan be modified
    - Split up the three blocks horizontally
    - List the activities for each group under the appropriate block
- Suggested that a block for property acquisition be added to the Organization Plan
- A “Forest Management Committee” was suggested to assist on working with the Management Plan
  - B. Sykes and T. Brooks
- Suggestion by D. Laxton to selectively cut Reynolds area.
  - Many large maples
  - Understory and ground growth is limited or non-existent
  - Contact Bob Davis to assist in managing and harvesting the trees.

- B. Sykes to contact Mr. Davis
- Committee reviewed the Jan 19, 2015 meeting agenda

A.

- Item 1** M. Zuber is Recording Secretary. Everyone seconded the nomination in record time
- Item 2** Tom Brooks to chair the Federal Farm  
Dave Laxton to chair the Reynolds Property
- Item 3** Agreed a Fishing Director is needed. Need to move quickly to ensure actions are undertaken in time for the Derby  
  
Else will appoint a Director as needed
- Item 4** As needed
- Item 5** Agreed that a Management Plan is appropriate.  
Further discussions are needed to properly structure the committee to implement
- Item 6** Concluded current meeting schedule is acceptable. However, Committee needs to meet sooner than March for the Fishing Derby
- Item 7** Concluded that current number of 19 is adequate
- Item 8** No substantive discussion on this topic
  - Names of potential candidates need to be submitted to Town Board
- Item 9** Concluded that current requirement is acceptable
- Item 10** Concluded that election schedule is acceptable
- Item 11** This depends on the activities that are being undertaken
- Item 12** Not at this time

B. See above notes.

In general, the Committee agreed a management plan is appropriate. Logistics need to be determined and implemented

- C. Agreed to work with Cornell on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
  - Start this year, maybe next
  - Will plant hemlocks that are ~10'
  - Allow trees to establish
  - Introduce the Woolly Adelgid
  - Introduce the control insects that would consume the Adelgids
  - Need additional information
  - Randy briefed the Town Board on this activity
  
- D. See "B" and notes above
  
- E. Thought this is a good idea
  
- F. Thought these two gentlemen would be good candidates.
  - Need to further pursue
  
- G. The issue of horses and bicycles at the conservation area was brought up:
  - The Town Board is curious why no horses or bicycles are allowed and why the Board was not involved
  - Area is not setup for horses or bikes
  - Concern about liability issues
  - Degradation caused by use, i.e. erosion primarily
  
- H. Wish list
  - Should fix the railing at Guppy Falls
  - Will work with the Highway Department to remove phragmites from pond
  
  - Ask Highway Department if they will mow the Boy Scout Field
    - Recommend that the Committee be very specific telling the Highway Department what to mow and not mow