

Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2015, 7:00 PM at the Skaneateles Town Hall.

Attendees: Ken Kaufman, Jeff Meyer, Nancy Murray, Randy Nonenmacher, Fred Scholl, Bob Sykes

Guests: Brian Winoski (Scoutmaster), Matt Winoski (Eagle Scout candidate), Sue Murphy and Gene LaForte (Parks Department)

- Boy Scout Projects:
 - Marcellus Troop 66 Eagle candidate Matt Winoski presented his written plan for the Guppy Falls overlook fencing for the committee's approval. There were some minor technical details that were discussed, such as rail lengths and post widths, and Matt agreed to make or consider the changes to his plan. Nancy Murray suggested that Matt supply a more detailed step-by-step plan, and he agreed to that.
 - Scoutmaster (and Matt's father) Brian Winoski clarified that Ed Riefler would be Matt's advisor/mentor for the project. Brian also said that he was working on steering another Eagle candidate toward a project to build Federal Farm observation deck steps.
 - We thanked their troop for helping with the tree planting on the previous day.
- Tree-planting report and plans:
 - About 250 bare-root tree seedlings have been planted so far this season.
 - About 150 bare-root tree seedlings will be planted next month.
 - Bob Sykes suggested that Randy Nonenmacher seek reimbursement for the supplies that he has purchased for tree planting, and he agreed to do so.
- Trail marking, naming, and mapping:
 - Many trails have the same color blazes and no other clear identifier to distinguish them from each other and open trails have no markers.
 - Names for trails and "blocks" or "fields" and markers for them could help for management planning purposes as well as safety.
 - We agreed to form a subcommittee consisting of Ken Kaufman, Fred Scholl, Jeff Meyer, and Randy Nonenmacher. Randy agreed to send an email to the members to solicit an initial meeting time.
- Fishing derby plans:
 - Sue Murphy and Gene LaForte from the Skaneateles Parks Department mined the minds of our committee for whatever information we could recollect about previous fishing derbies.
 - It was agreed that they would contact Gary Snyder for additional details.
 - The fishing derby will be held on Saturday, July 18th this year.
- Two HGCNY "show-m-help-me" field trips will be held on June 13th and 20th at 10 AM. Both will be led in part by Greg McGee and will feature problem areas and solutions including wildflower restoration, invasive vegetation removal, and forest restoration.
 - The June 13th tour will have a limit to the number of attendees, with HGCNY/WildOnes members having priority. However they have agreed that our

committee and their families, as well as Skaneateles town officials and their families may attend regardless of the limit. Others should contact Carol Biesemeyer (cbieseme@twcnny.rr.com) to sign up for the June 13th tour.

- The June 20th tour will have no limits, but contact ranonenmacher@twcnny.rr.com just to let them know how many to expect that day.
- Greg McGee has a graduate student, Geoff Griffiths, who is picking up the wildflower restoration research being done on the old Guppy Farm area, and would like to (quoting Dr. McGee):
 - "...continue with experimental restoration protocols (using combinations of seeds and root stock), and he would like to couple this with citizen science activities...I think Guppy would be ideal to continue working on this and expanding the plantings that the Garden Club started last year;
 - "...investigate pollinator populations in the post-ag forests and compare them to primary communities (along the slope at Gully Rd, and in the adjacent property to the south owned by Bruce Card). He wants to do some pollinator and deer exclusion studies. That is he would hand-pollinate some plants, bag the flowers of others to exclude pollinators, and also place some small chicken-wire frames over some of the plants. He's interested in teasing out the effects of pollinator limitations from herbivory pressures as possible mechanisms limiting the distribution of these plants in the post-ag forests."
 - There were no objections from the committee to such research being done at the Conservation Area.
- Turkey season signs are all up (a half hour before sunrise to noon, May 1-31).
- A subcommittee was suggested by Jeff Harrop (not present) to investigate obtaining easements or otherwise obtaining permission to create hiking trails to connect the Conservation Areas with other local areas of interest. John Underhill (not present) had expressed interest via email to Randy, and Bob Sykes expressed interest at the meeting.
- Monarch larvae monitoring around the Federal Farm observation platform was discussed, and it was agreed that some type of temporary barrier with signs describing the project would be OK to prevent trampling of the milkweed by people taking shortcuts to the platform.
- Baltimore woods camper assistance discussion was deferred until the next meeting.
- Small game hunting and trapping were briefly discussed. Fred Scholl stated that all types of legal hunting have traditionally been allowed, but he didn't think trapping had been addressed one way or another. The feeling of the committee seemed to be that what can be hunted and when should be made clear to the public. Perhaps an appropriate DEC poster can be obtained.
- Hemlock-insectary planting by CCE was discussed in 50 words or less. Randy had just received word that CCE had gotten funding via the City of Syracuse to plant insectary trees at three properties at the south end of the lake. Not mentioned at the meeting was that they plan to have a public forum for the project at the Niles Town Hall on May 12th at 7 PM.
- Paul Mooney, our newest volunteer would like to meet with a couple us of to discuss solutions for leveling the tilted kiosk at the Federal Farm (Old Seneca Turnpike) parking lot. Ken agreed to meet with Paul and Randy to look at the kiosk.
- Our next committee meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 7 PM.