

## Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Monday, May 18, 2015, 7:00 PM at the Skaneateles Town Hall

Attendees:

- **Committee members:** Bob Sykes, Ken Kaufman, Tom Brooks, Randy Nonenmacher
- **Guests:** Matt Winoski, Robin Winoski, Ed Riefler

Minutes:

- **Boy Scout Project** – Marcellus Troop 66, Guppy Falls overlook railing: Eagle candidate Matt Winoski presented a more detailed step-by-step plan for our approval, along with some design changes. Accompanying him were his mother Robin Winoski and mentor for the project Ed Riefler.
  - Ed explained to the committee some of the recent evolution of the Boy Scout organization, both locally and nationally.
  - Matt presented his proposed design changes (Fig. 1), which included the use of 6x6 lumber for both posts and rails. The committee felt that 2x6 rails were sufficient, especially since they would be using hardwood milled to full dimensions.
  - Matt's design showed 6-ft posts extending 30-inches below ground (set in gravel) and 42-inches above ground. The 6x6 cap-rail would have brought the top to 48-inches, which caused some concern that it might be too high overall.
  - The committee also suggested that the tops of the posts be beveled at about 30-degrees to allow for an angled cap rail to prevent standing water and possibly discourage walking on the top. A 2x10 cap would easily cover and be supported by an unbeveled 2x6 top rail (Fig. 2.).
  - Matt agreed to provide a cut-list for Bob Sykes to use for milling the lumber from black locust.
  - Matt would also like to get permission to drive materials closer via the field adjacent to the Guppy area. James Mizro who owns the field adjacent to the Guppy Farm area is willing to allow access to the field through his property on Old Seneca Turnpike, but he said they would still need to carry the materials about a quarter mile or so, but that part is fairly flat. Randy provided Mr. Mizro's phone number to Matt, Robin, and Ed to coordinate with him.
- **The highway department** is scheduled to help out on Thursday, May 21, to do most of the Conservation Area work that Ken and Randy discussed with highway superintendent Allen Wellington on Thursday May 14.
  - The projects include:
    - spreading gravel, topsoil, and seed around the pavilion (we are to provide the grass seed),
    - removing the *Phragmites australis* from the fishing pond,

- removing the brush piles from along the trails, and
  - using their equipment to help level and stabilize the kiosk.
- Ken and Randy agreed to be there on Thursday to help facilitate, along with volunteers, Joe Paduda and John Hosford.
- **Fishing derby plans** –Sue Murphy emailed today saying: “I will not be able to attend tonight’s meeting, but just want you to know that we have already collected money for the t-shirts and that there may need to change the food situation per Nancy Murray. We will give you the names for the t-shirts by Friday of this week for your design.”
- **Hemlock planting** – CCE Onondaga finished planting about 100 hemlocks at 4 locations near the southwest shores of Skaneateles Lake today. They still need to finish fencing them in case anyone is interested in helping with that.
- **Subcommittee to discuss trail naming and marking** – A subcommittee comprising Ken, Jeff Meyer, Fred Scholl, Tom and Randy will meet on Weds. May 27, 7pm at the Y to talk about the best ways to identify conservation area trails, both on maps, trail markers and for maintenance, management, and restoration purposes. This was envisioned at our previous meeting as a one step in developing a management plan for the area.
- **SCA Tours** – Saturdays June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> *Habitat Gardening of Central New York* (HGCNY, a chapter of *Wild Ones*) “Show-me/Help-me” field trip to the Skaneateles Conservation Area. We will start with a tour of some of the old-fields of the former *Marcellus Soil and Water Conservation Research Station* known locally as the “Federal Farm.” As with other recently-abandoned agricultural land of the region, the overpopulation of white-tail deer has degraded the habitat provided by these fields to the point where exotic invasive plants predominate. This tour will point out what is being attempted to reduce the invasive vegetation and will seek suggestions for possible solutions to the problems of both effective removal of exotics, replacement with natives, and future protection both new and existing beneficial plants. SUNY-ESF professor and Skaneateles resident, Greg McGee (June 13<sup>th</sup> only) along with PhD ecology student Geoff Griffiths (both Saturdays) will be available to provide input for the first part of the tour at the Federal Farm, and then will lead us on a tour of their Wildflower Restoration projects near Guppy Falls on the old Guppy Farm. See <http://skaak.org/calendar/> for more information. Both tours are open to town officials and our committee.
- **Next meeting** – The next meeting of the Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee will be on Monday, June 15, at 7:00 PM.

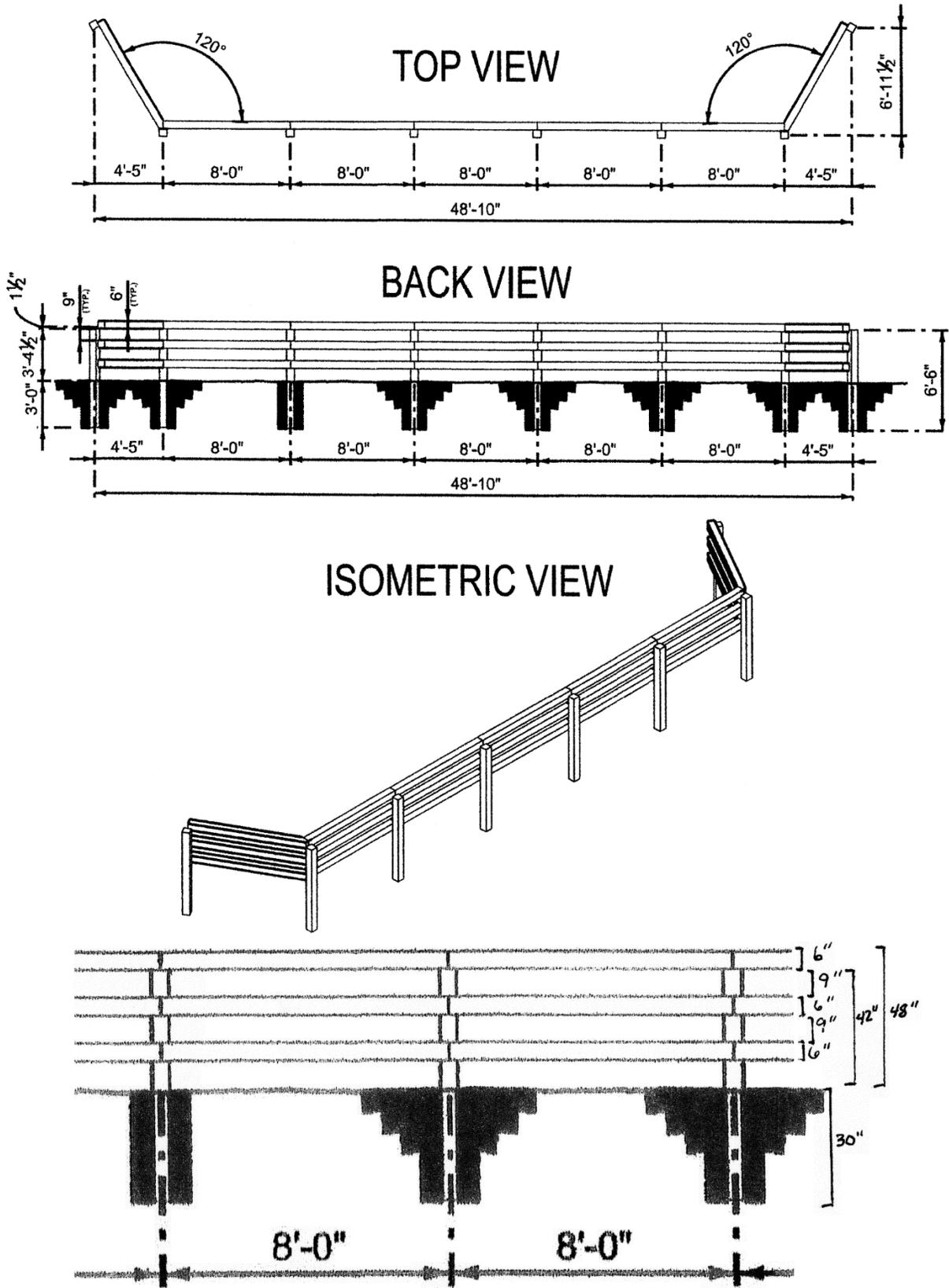
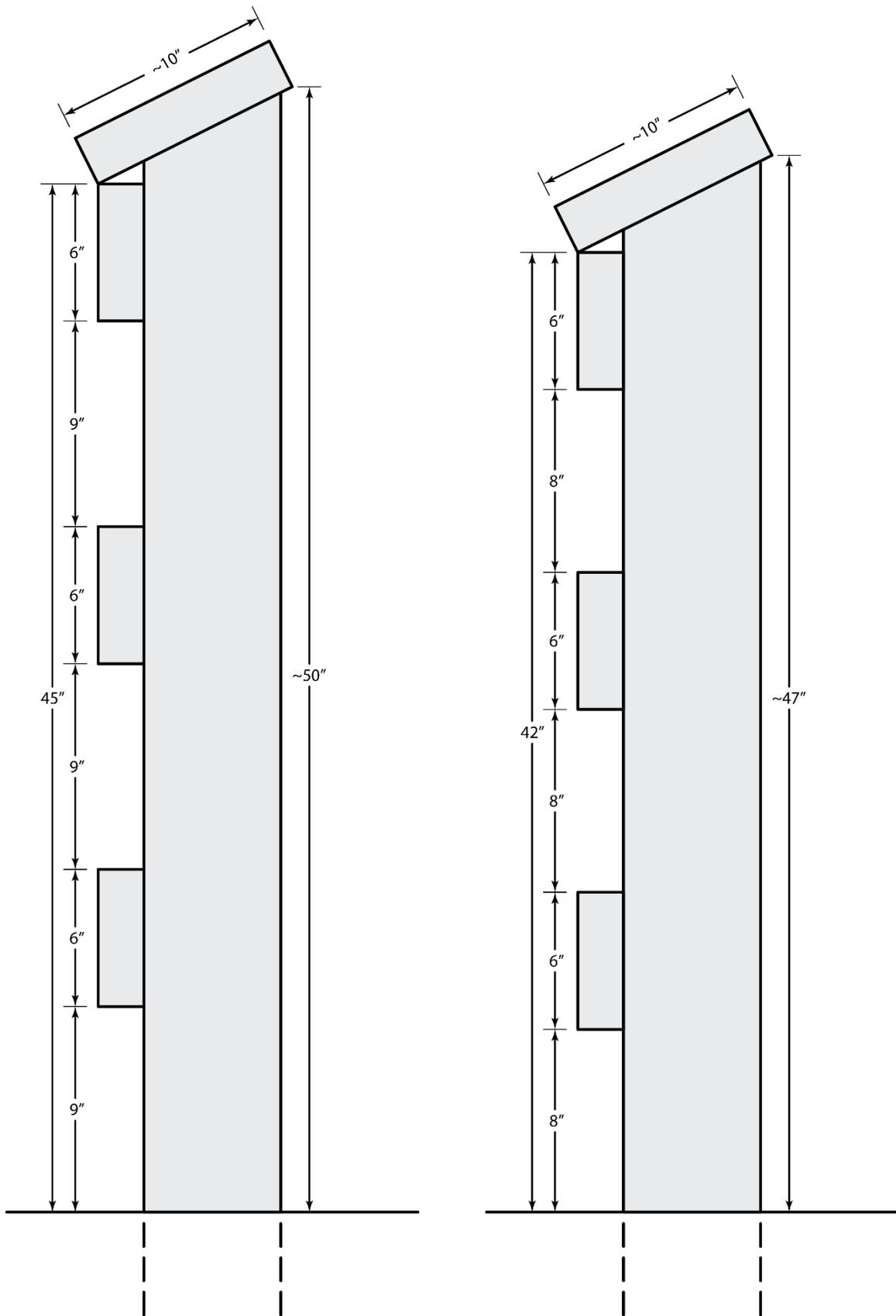


Fig. 1. Matt Winoski's original plan for the Guppy Falls overlook railing



**Fig. 2.** *General consensus for the railing design.*  
*Note that it would still be quite high with a 9 or even 8-inch spacing between rails.*