

Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Monday, October 19, 2015, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Tom Brooks, John Underhill, Fred Scholl, Jeff Meyer, Jeff Harrop, Bob Sykes, Nancy Murray, Randy Nonenmacher

- Guppy Falls railing project: The Town sent a letter of thanks to Matt and the rest of Troop 66 completing the project. The minor check at the end of one of the cap boards has been fixed. However, visible holes were drilled into the front edge of the board to insert lag screws. [These were filled with black locust plugs subsequent to the meeting.]
- Also as an Eagle project, Andrew Marsh from Troop 66 will be doing GPS updates for our maps, including accurate distances and corrections for trails that have drifted. Randy met with Andrew and his advisor on Saturday (Oct. 17). We found a number of the survey markers for the Guppy Farm area and determined that our trails on the western and southern borders are outside the SCA property. Andrew will be making a “master” map with software that have and will turn that map over to us to use for updating our trail map and future projects. He plans to start once the leaves are off the trees and to be done by January. There were no other areas of concern expressed by the committee. The Scouts will be wearing appropriately visible clothing during hunting seasons.
- Justin Wolford from Troop 61, Skaneateles is working on getting approval for an ambitious stair/step construction Eagle project for three separate locations at the Federal Farm, including the northern ascent to the observation deck and two steep sections on the southernmost (red) trail. He plans to commence and complete the project this summer.
- As reported last month, members of the ESF faculty have shown interest in providing some students from their Conservation Biology Synthesis senior seminar to work on a management plan project for the Skaneateles Conservation Area during the Winter/Spring 2016 semester. We will try to have them include plans for invasive species control.
- Contacted Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) about guidance for invasive species problems, particularly pale swallow-wort (or dog strangling vine). They haven’t gotten back to us, but according to their literature, they often work through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). So subsequent to the meeting we contacted Jessi Lyons from CCE, who put us in touch with Tom Hughes at New York State Parks. He has agreed to meet with us to discuss manual and mechanical solutions that have been successful at some State Parks. He also suggested contacting George Spak, who has worked with State Parks and Baltimore Woods on herbicide application for pale swallow-wort.
- Ash-seed-collection training took place at Green Lakes on Sep. 29. Collected seeds from one tree at the conservation area and one elsewhere.
- John and Randy inventoried our supplies and equipment in the storage room at the old water department building the morning after the meeting as agreed.
- Next meeting Nov. 16.