

# Nov. 16, 2015 meeting

## Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Monday, November 16, 2015, 7:00 PM

**Attendees:** Jeff Harrop, Ken Kaufman, Dave Laxton, Jeff Meyer, Randy Nonenmacher, Fred Scholl, Bob Sykes

- Discussed treatment of invasive plants
  - Ken reported that the Town does not currently have a licensed pesticide applicator. It was also noted that it would not be practical for any of us as volunteers to get a license without essentially going into the business.
  - Swallow-wort – large infestations would require chemical treatment to be successful, but for now we will concentrate on manual digging small infestations to try to save the cleaner areas that we have. We will also keep the trails mowed to prevent it from going to seed where it could get tracked around or brought home on hikers' clothing.
  - Barberry – George Spak (the licensed applicator who we consulted) was concerned that our fairly small infestations would spread, and become a major problem including harboring deer ticks, so he recommended trying to pull all we can find, which we plan to do.
  - Phragmites – we agreed that we should attempt to get funding to chemically treat the Phragmites around the beaver pond on Gully Road, as we probably won't have enough in our budget for the estimated \$3800 that it would cost.
  - Bob and Randy agreed to look into what money is available for purchasing equipment.
- Discussed the conservation plan to be developed by ESF students.
  - Dr. Whitney Marshall will be teaching the Conservation Biology Synthesis class.
  - She has taught it the past two spring semesters using a property in Costa Rica.
  - They will include hands-on-the-ground experiences such as removing invasive species.
  - Randy will be meeting with Dr. Marshall later this semester to discuss our needs for the plan.
- Discussed GPS mapping by scouts
  - Sunday, Nov. 15, Troop 66 from Marcellus, led by Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Marsh, covered all or most the trails of the conservation area.
  - They used GPS units borrowed from the Marcellus High School.
  - The Scouts' advisor is Jerry Kezar, who is very knowledgeable about the technology and eager to get an accurate map.
  - We had found some of the boundary monuments, but had asked Janet about getting survey maps to check others. She provided the maps for the meeting and we selected the ones that we needed. She will get copies made for us to provide for the Scout project.
- Nobody thought that the muskrat lodge in the fishing pond would be a problem unless the muskrats dig too many holes in the dike.
  - They are mostly vegetarian, so they shouldn't bother the fish.
  - They do dig tunnels, so that will need to be monitored.
- Election of officers:
  - There were no volunteers, so we are stuck with our current officers.
- The next meeting will be on Monday, January 18, which is a holiday, but there were no concerns.