

Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Monday, March 21, 2016, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Dave Laxton, Matt Champlin, Whitney Marshall, Nancy Murray, Jeff Meyer, Bob Sykes, Randy Nonenmacher, Jim Lanning

1. *Phragmites* control plan status
 - a. Herbicide applicator estimate: George Spak provided an estimate of \$5450 for chemically treating the *Phragmites* around the beaver pond this summer using glyphosate.
 - b. The control project and application were discussed at the Thursday, March 17 Town Board meeting, and it was decided that a SEQR process should be initiated, including investigating optional chemicals, but the grant application would be submitted. The grant application was signed, submitted and received by FL-PRISM on Friday, March 18.
2. Vandalism discussion and repair status
 - a. The kiosk has been repaired using a spare map, new plywood and paint.
 - b. A panel has been added to the parking-lot side.
 - c. Knowledge of this event caused concern about placement of a plaque honoring those who were instrumental in obtaining the conservation area.
3. ESF conservation plan status and events
 - a. Dr. Whitney Marshall attended this meeting
 - b. She reported on student proposals, and we discussed topics including:
 - i. Hunter/hiker/dog-walker separation
 - ii. Dog waste disposal was determined to be a problem, especially around the fishing pond and main entrance.
 - iii. A dog enclosure and dog restrictions were considered unlikely to be accepted
 - iv. Adding field-wildflower restoration area, possibly with monarch habitat
 - v. Adding arboretum with herbivore protection. It might be possible that the two areas could be combined.
 - vi. Deer exclosures may be involved as part of specific goals
 - vii. Restricting or closing trails during certain seasons to protect wildlife (e.g. turkey and grouse nesting)
 - c. March 27 (Easter Sunday) from 1-4pm – site visit lead by Greg McGee
 - d. April 2 (Saturday) from 9am-noon – site visit lead by Don Leopold

- e. April 13 – Drafts of individual sections are due from the students
 - f. April 23-24 (finalized date) – *BioBlitz* at SCA
(<https://www.facebook.com/SkaneatelesConservationAreaBioblitz/>)
 - g. May 4 – Each group will give a presentation of their assigned section. The committee is invited.
4. Matt Champlin discussed a spotted-salamander migration that he observed on March 10 across Guppy Road.
 5. Tree-planting initiatives and windbreaks
 6. Purchase of a brush mower. Will need to get two quotes on the mower to be purchased. This is expected to be a Billy Goat® BC26 series Outback® Brushcutter, Model #BC2600HEBH. [Got the two quotes on Mach 24. The mower will be picked up on Tues., Mar. 29, and stored at the Transfer Station.]
 7. Next meeting will be on Monday April 18 at 7pm.