

Skaneateles Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Monday, June 20, 2016, 7:00 PM. Skaneateles Town Hall.

Attendees:

Committee - Tom Brooks, Matt Champlin, Ken Kaufman, Dave Laxton, Jeff Meyer,
Randy Nonenmacher, Bob Sykes, Jim Lanning

Guests - Nick Roseboom, Kathy Roseboom, Dan Gooden

Minutes:

- Troop 66 Eagle project: boardwalk over vernal pools on Guppy Farm.
 - Eagle Scout candidate Nick Roseboom presented his proposal to build a boardwalk over the vernal pools near the northern border of the Guppy Farm section of the Conservation Area.
 - He had measured the proposed boardwalk path on May 28.
 - Total length was about 70 feet, and width will be about 2 feet.
 - Alternate designs were discussed.
 - The committee approved the project.
- Do we want to sponsor campers at Baltimore Woods this year?
 - Ken Kaufman asked whether we wanted to give Baltimore Woods camperships to one or more deserving Skaneateles-resident children this Summer as we have in past years.
 - The committee agreed that we should provide a week of Summer Nature Day Camp for up to two children from the Town of Skaneateles.
 - Ken agreed to arrange to provide the camperships. [He did so the following day, Jun. 21. The cost would be \$167 per camper. Determination of need is made by Baltimore Woods staff. Last year only one camper was found needing funding.]
- Troop 66 Eagle project: Trail mapping.
 - Eagle candidate Andrew Marsh and other Scouts from Troop 66, Marcellus, mapped just under 10 miles of trails at the SCA.
 - Points of interest (structures & water crossings) were also plotted, completing his project.
 - The results are in two GPX files, one for the trail tracks, and one for points of interest.
- Troop 61 Eagle project: stairs

- Justin Wolford completed the 13 stairs to the observation deck on Saturday, May 28, using 6×6 lumber with a 16-inch run and 16-inch overlap.
 - He also did some invasive plant removal on that day and on June 3.
- The fishing derby will be on July 16. If we move the July meeting from the 18th to the 11th, Sue Murphy will attend to discuss what we can do to help.
 - The committee approved of moving the July meeting to the 11th.
- Preparation for the plaque and rock is under way.
 - Sunday, June 19th, at the direction of Nancy Murray, Moses flattened the area in preparation for installing a concrete pad this week.
 - The monument will be placed on the southeast quadrant of the intersection of the main trail leading into the Fed. Farm and the turnoff to the fishing pond (between the oak tree and the corner).
- Four invasive species management interns from ESF have been mapping and removing invasive plants from the conservation area.
 - Selected areas of pale swallow-wort are being removed by pulling, digging, and mowing, as appropriate.
 - Swallow-wort populations have greatly expanded since last year!
 - An area of Phragmites has been pulled and cut. Plans are being made to use black tarps over near-monocultures and to continue pulling or cutting where Phrag is mixed with native plants.
 - We will mark and measure the infested area opposite from Gully Rd. tomorrow.
- ESF may be holding a faculty-sponsored BioBlitz at SCA in the Fall.
 - The link to the iNaturalist project for this Spring's SCA BioBlitz is: <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/skaneateles-conservation-area-bioblitz-2016>
- Logging Mable Reynolds Preserve.
 - Jim Lanning contacted Bob Davis from ESF to inventory the Mable Reynolds preserve for possible selective logging.
 - The dense spruce plantations on the west side of Benson Road are in need of thinning, and selected hardwoods on the east side are ready for harvest.