

Forest Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 18, 2015

Members present: Steve Gulrich-Chair, Steve LaBranche, Debbie Abbott
Staff present: Mike O'Connor

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

Draft minutes of October 21, 2014 were unanimously approved with no changes.

Recent changes with FAC and Friends: The reinstatement of the FAC was discussed and Debbie Abbott was welcomed to the Committee as the new president of the Friends. A combined meeting of the two groups is anticipated, perhaps during the winter.

Revised Conservation Commission Regulation Changes: Mr. LaBranche, Conscom member, said the process of FAC and Friends approval for most of our work would generally be informal and be passed on to ConsCom by himself and Mr. O'Connor could keep Natural Resources informed.

1651 Friends Report: Ms. Abbott reported that there had been no spring planting this year but general maintenance around a number of plantings had been accomplished in early June. The harsh winter had set back a number of plantings but most specimens had survived. The Friends would like to plant a tree in honor of Loretta Neilsen, perhaps located in place of the deteriorating spruce tree (a non-native species on the Cape) at the parking lot entrance booth. An evergreen, maybe a white pine, was discussed. The Committee agreed to approach Conscom (Mr. LaBranche), Beach and Recreation (Ms. Abbott) and Natural Resources (Mr. O'Connor) to see if they would be on board for this possibility.

Future Plantings: Options for a fall planting were discussed and it was agreed to consider a ground cover for the undertaking (perhaps pipsissewa or wintergreen). There was general discussion about investigating an expansion of the planting list to begin enhancing the variation of species in the Wiley Park project. The initial Native Species List has many plants that seem well established in the park. Mr. LaBranche added that some indigenous ground covers are now available in a sod-like product (eg. sweet fern, low bush blueberry, huckleberry). The Committee agreed to look into amending the species list and to plan a walking survey meeting in September for future planting sites.

Forest Planting Map: The planting map needs to be updated to include the 2014 plantings. Mr. O'Connor reported that there have been difficulties both with the GPS operation and the maintenance of the map in a format that can clearly show different groups and individual plantings. The map will need to be larger to be legible. He will ask new NR staff member, Dave Johnson for assistance in getting the GPS and map working together in an acceptable format.

Forest Planting Summary Spreadsheet: Mr. Gulrich noted that the summary spreadsheet needs to be expanded to accommodate the project for the years ahead. The Committee discussed making an effort to document survival rates and record these readings on the spreadsheet.

Bristly Locust Update: Mr. Gulrich reported that the clearing schedule from last year and the harsh winter apparently have greatly helped keep down the growth of the invasive. He was able to clear the visible plants in just two hours alone this past week. Perhaps our removal sessions have also made a difference over the last three years.

Next Meeting: Later September, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Gulrich, acting clerk

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55

Forest Advisory Committee Minutes, October 21, 2014

Present: Steve Gulrich, Steve LaBranche, Mike O'Connor, Loretta Neilsen.

Call to order 7 pm

Minutes from June 3, 2014 meeting approved

Update on Wiley Park entry enhancement proposal by Loretta Nielsen which she is hoping to take to Community Preservation for funding of the project. She would like to trim/remove some trees and plant cedars, bayberry, clethra and a wildflower mix. Discussed not needing such a large amount of loam for planting. Also discussed high price for the work and some alternative plantings that might be considered. Steve and Steve voted yes to approve Ms. Nielsen taking her plan to OS and Conscom along with suggestions from the FAC. The Committee also felt that this project should be understood to be a suggested enhancement to the recent Wiley Park entrance work and maintenance responsibility would remain under the Department of Natural Resources.

1651 Friends Report

Autumn plantings:

Rex Peterson memorial dogwood and replace 3 mockernuts on 10/25.

Spring plantings not determined.

Several clean ups so far this year.

Future plantings:

Talked about amending the planting list.

1651 Friends suggestions for new plants.

Updated forest planting map and planting spreadsheet.

Steve Gulrich working on updated versions if both.

Discussion of plants that are not looking good.

Bristly locust update: looking good now-no plans for Fall clearing.

No other business.

Next meeting in March 2015.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 pm

Submitted by Steve LaBranche

