

# Town of Eastham Forest Advisory Committee

November 14, 2016, Town Hall small meeting room

Members present: Steve Gulrich-Chair, Mike Harnett, Henry Lind, Debbie Abbott (acting clerk)

Absent: Steve LaBranche, Mike O'Connor (staff member)

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

Draft minutes of July 13, 2016 were unanimously approved with no changes.

1651 Friends Report: Ms. Abbott reported the 1651 Arboretum's annual meeting Sept. 24 was successful and was held in conjunction with a guided walk through Wiley Park by two Cape Cod National Seashore naturalists. The anticipated fall planting of Sheep Laurel did not take place because of the lack of nursery stock. It will be rescheduled for spring.

Evaluating and amending the list of plant species was addressed by Mr. Lind. He "scraped" the available Motzkin data that reports plant species most likely present in Wiley Park in 1651 and created a pivot table that compares that with what we have listed in the 1651 handbook. This summary in the form of a color coded chart appears to show the species that have been successful in our area, what has not, and what we might consider adding to the planting list. The first table column is the most important, outlining where Motzkin and our handbook converge.

Mr. Lind was going to seek guidance from Russ Norton, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension educator, as to how we should refocus our efforts. In the meantime, the FAC and 1651 Arboretum volunteers will start working on an inventory of what has been planted in Wiley in the last 15 years and its general condition. Mr. Lind also has an appointment with Paul Lagg, Eastham Town Planner, to get the updated inventory information inserted into a software program on which they are working.

Mr. Gulrich led a discussion of what we should use for criteria in the inventory, which would include using a metal detector to locate the plant tags and a tablet to record information. The criteria would include: ID tag name, number and location (GPS & Photo); the species could be on a dropdown menu; height; crown; relative health; and any other comments. Mr. Lind pointed out the single biggest obstacle would be finding the metal tags.

Discussion ensued about using a different plant tag. Currently, we use aluminum, which over time disintegrates in the acidic soil. A topic for future consideration.

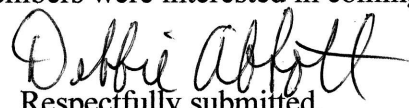
We briefly touched on management of invasives such as bittersweet, English ivy, autumn olive, knotweed, bristly locust and multiflora rose; also Virginia creeper, poison ivy and wild grape.

Mr. Gulrich is putting together the FAC write up for the 2016 Town report,

We will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Wiley Park to try out the metal detector and the tablet software program. Ms. Abbott was going to ask if any 1651 Arboretum members were interested in coming along.

Next Meeting: Monday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22 p.m.

  
Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Abbott, acting clerk