



Woods Committee Minutes
Monday, August 2, 2021 - 7:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Approved: September 7, 2021

Attendance: Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Joli McCathran, Deb Mehlferber, Virginia Quesada, and Krista Zanetti

The August 2021 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda: The August WC Agenda was unanimously approved (Virginia 1st/Deb 2nd).

Approval of Minutes: The July 6, 2021, WC Minutes were unanimously approved (Deb 1st/ 2nd Virginia).

Public Appearances: There were no public appearances.

East Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects – WC Recommendations to TC

The WC will present updates on plans for trail maintenance and public safety, to include trail entrance signage and trail restoration, at the August TC meeting. Trail maintenance work and plans have been reported in detail in monthly reports and the Council has approved its budget requests for these projects.

The Committee agreed to install trail signs with markers at trail entrances to evaluate effectiveness and consider adding additional trail markers at trail intersections later. The entrance signs will not only provide useful information for trail users but are essential to implementation of the Ordinances and Resolutions adopted by the Town Council limiting and regulating use of the Woods Preserves. This trail signage supports our ongoing Forest Restoration Plan by protecting damage to trees and the understory and preventing soil erosion. Trail signposts will consist of pressure treated wooden poles with attached placards like the one shown at the entrance to the Conservation Meadow at Picea Court. Sign markers will be purchased from a local vendor and mounted to the poles by town volunteers at a cost well

within the budgeted amount. The Committee will request Town Council concurrence to proceed.

The Committee has received positive feedback from town residents and has agreed that the “timber turnpikes” should be expanded beyond the initial trial locations. The next section will improve the remaining chronically wet areas of Maple Avenue Extended. By providing a dry path on the trail, the turnpikes protect users from slipping and injuring themselves on muddy trails and keeps walkers on the trail, thereby preventing widening of the trails and protecting adjoining areas from soil compaction and root damage. All materials for the turnpikes are sourced from our Woods (soil, wood chips, and downed timber). The construction cost will remain within the approved budgeted amounts. The Committee will request Town Council concurrence to proceed.

Trail access to the new Bradfield Crossing needs attention. The trail is littered with trash and roots of treated greenbriar pose a tripping hazard. Volunteers plan to start working on the new trail soon.

WG Deer Management Program – Volunteer Fall/Winter Bow Hunt

Initial discussions were held with BHFFMD volunteer bow hunters, Dave Burke and Scott Rinehart, regarding the 2021-2022 deer hunting season. They will provide proof of liability insurance and the DNR permission form for hunting on private property to be signed by our Mayor for the coming season. An updated Resolution approving the volunteer bow hunt will be presented to the Town Council for approval during the August meeting. The 2021/22 Bow Hunting Season extends from Friday, September 10, 2021, to Monday, January 31, 2022. Preliminary discussion began with MNCP&P officials regarding expanding the volunteer deer hunt to include the Conservation Meadow. MC Park officials are interested to discuss future plans and coordination that could not be completed in time for the coming season, according to Ryan Butler. Committee members noted that while smaller numbers of deer have been routinely observed in the Woods, some private residences have witnessed deer browsing damage in their gardens.

Coordination with Border Committee

The Committee discussed the relation of its efforts to those of the Border Committee, including installation of identify fencing on the edge of the West Woods. The WC will provide \$500 support from our approved Outreach budget towards the Border Committee’s purchase of the Town welcome sign in the corner of the West Woods at Daylily and Washington Grove Lanes.

Final Updates, Announcement, Comments, and Action Items

- Present Plans for trail signage and additional timber turnpikes to the Town Council on August 9

- Present to the Town Council on August 9 a Resolution for deer management during the 2021/22 archery season
- Submit design for trail entrance posts to the HPC for approval
- Inform the Border Committee of the approval of \$500 of WC funds for a WG welcome sign in the West Woods
- Begin to prepare access trail to the new Bradfield Crossing

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM (Krista 1st/Virginia 2nd).

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Klein and Joan Mahaffey, Co-chairs