

DOG RIVER PARK SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of March 10, 2021

I. Roll Call

- a. Attended by Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Kim Adams, Simon Pearish, Russ Barrett, and Laura Hill-Eubanks (non-voting)

II. Set/Adjust Agenda

- a. No adjustment

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Kim moves, Simon seconds, 4-0-0

IV. Discussion

- a. Review of Planning & Conservation Commissions & joint meeting, 3/3/21.
 - i. Reps of several Northfield orgs got together with Planning Commission to share goals and activities (Conservation Commission, Dog River Park committee, Rivers+Ridges Group).
 - ii. DRPC role to serve the common themes mentioned at this meeting would be to provide educational programming around conservation themes at the Dog River Park.
- b. Dog River Conservancy updates
 - i. The Dog River Conservancy, a group working at the Norwich Center for Global Resilience and Security, received a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. One goal of this grant is to provide educational signage and/or programming that highlight the historical and cultural heritage of the Water Street Neighborhood. This should be done in coordination with the Friends of the Winooski River (see below).
 - ii. Bonnie and Simon will coordinate with The Friends of the Winooski River, who received a similar grant and is planning to install educational signage with a conservation theme. Will also check to see if Michele Braun (Director of FOTWR) knows the FEMA guidelines for signs.

- c. Spring 2021 planning
 - i. Brush hogging $\frac{1}{3}$ of meadow should happen this year. We had a discussion about who would do the job, whether it could be done by the town or if we need to recruit a volunteer. We also debated the timing, whether it should happen in the spring before new growth and nesting, or the fall after seeds have matured and birds have fledged. Russ will reach out to his contacts to learn more about the best practices.
 - ii. Simon will get in touch with Collin O'Neil (Norwich Shaw Center) about torch weeding so we can arrange a plan to compare torch weeding to a DIY eco-friendly herbicide (recipes from extension offices).
- d. Review maintenance plan progress
 - i. Need to continue to revisit the maintenance plan at future meetings to update it as we determine how maintenance will actually work in practice.
 - ii. Need to add reference materials to a shared folder so that they may be added to the appendix of the plan when it is in a more finalized state.
- e. Review ideas for park funds
 - i. Talked about ideas to recognize the donors from the Class of '57. It was suggested that we could ask graphic design firms for sign designs. It was also suggested that a plaque could be placed on a bench or a more functional park feature. This is a good opportunity to reach out to the state to ask what the limitations are with regard to installing "permanent" features.

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment

- a. Russ moves, Kim seconds, 4-0-0