

DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 14, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - a. Members attending: Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Simon Pearish, Russ Barrett, and Laura Hill-Eubanks (non-voting)
 - b. Also attended by: Peter Milne (Boy Scout, Troop #729)
- II. Set/Adjust Agenda
 - a. No adjustment
- III. Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2021
 - a. Simon moves, Russ seconds, approved 3-0-0
- IV. Discussion
 - a. Eagle Scout Project Proposal

The park needs boundary markers around the meadow that give us a permanent definition of the boundaries of the areas that need to be mowed on a three-year rotation. Mr. Milne is proposing an Eagle Scout project that would create a permanent-but-not-visible boundary using below grade boundary markers.

The committee discussed several options for boundary markers and decided that concrete blocks with a well-defined symbol would be the best option.

Peter has approval from Jeff Schultz but needs to check back in to see if concrete blocks would be acceptable boundary markers.

Motion by Simon, seconded by Russ - Peter Milne will collaborate with Jeff Schultz and our committee to set mowing boundaries that Mr. Milne will subsequently mark off with approved boundary markers.

Approved 3-0-0

b. Member Research Updates

Russ – Contacted the Audubon to explore the idea of doing a bird habitat inventory of the park and adjacent land owned by Norwich.

Laura – Communicated with Northfield zoning administrator, Mitch Osiecki, for an opinion of signs and benches. Signs are allowed as long as they are designed so that they do not trap debris. Signs can only add up to 150 square feet. Will consult the zoning admin when we have signs in mind. Benches are allowable if they do not trap debris and get washed away. Should check with Jeff Schulz, then Ned Swanberg (regional floodplain manager).

Bonnie – Benches would be allowable. Preferred materials are wood with a metal frame. Benches should be limited in number. Brush-hogging activity should be carried out by town, not private individual. Signs with a historical and/or ecological would be allowable. Lots on the west side of Water Street are not considered to be part of the park.

Kim (via Bonnie) – Plaque would be acceptable as long as it is confirmed that it is acknowledging the correct donors. Need to confirm any plans with Town Manager.

Motioned by Simon, seconded by Bonnie – The Dog River Park committee recommends that the town enters into an agreement with Friends of the Winooski River as detailed in the Riparian Buffer Memorandum of Agreements. Approved 3-0-0

c. LCBP Grant Signage - Tabled

d. Review Maintenance Plan Progress -Tabled

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment. Motioned by Bonnie, seconded by Simon, Approved 3-0-0