

Conservation Committee

Stewardship Advisory Committee

January 18, 2018

Present: Nick Fleck, Katherine Johnson, Joanne McGee, Bob Pasteris, Andrew Vernon, Jerry Wagener
Absent: Charlie Blanker

1. The minutes for December 19, 2017 were approved.
2. Agreement concerning ceremonial stone landscapes:
The committee discussed the wording and possible expansion of the agreement to include early settlement artifacts and remains. The committee voted to present the agreement as written to the Conservation Committee. Katherine will attend the Con Com Feb. 21 meeting with possibly Bob and Andrew.
3. Metal detecting on King Philip's Hill:
The Historic Battlefield Project has not yet inspected KPH, so the suspected detecting is not authorized. We will post on notice on the kiosk that digging is forbidden. Katherine will check with the Con Com about the sign.
4. Town Forest thinning project: Katherine hopes to meet with Willie next week.
5. Forever Wild status for parts of Town Forest:
Jerry talked with Bill Copeland about the Forever Wild status on the Copeland's land. Bill feels that it is best to leave forest products in the forest to return the minerals to the earth and to minimize the amount of carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere. Older trees capture more carbon dioxide. After discussion about the pros and cons of Forever Wild status, Joanne will talk with Mount Grace about the status and see if someone could present possibilities at a later meeting.

Nick read an appropriate comment from H. D. Thoreau's journal.
6. Trail report: Mitchell has given verbal approval to Bill Llewelyn for the small section of the KPH trail that crosses onto his land.
7. Ames accessible trail: Joanne and Jerry attended a workshop Saturday to plan the completion of the trail and the opening on June 2. Since the entire Ames property is under a conservation restriction held by the Conservation Commission, the Stewardship Committee is responsible for an annual monitoring of the CR. Since Mount Grace owns and holds the CR for the trail exclusion zone, Mount Grace will monitor that section. Joanne distributed the monitoring map. Mount Grace has prepared the baseline report and will accompany us on a monitoring visit later this year. Joanne will send the link to the report to committee members.
8. The next meeting will be March 1, 2018. No meeting in February.

Joanne McGee