

Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for November 13, 2014

Present: George Clark, Cathy Hybels, Justin Hybels, Kevin Perron, Nathaniel Perron, Lindsay Putnam, Lily Trajman, Stan Williams

Life Scout Nathaniel Perron presented an outline of ideas and sketches for a proposed new structure for the nature area. Under the easement and management plan, the structure may not exceed 200 square feet.

Useful ideas were exchanged on potential designs and construction materials. Information on the prospective activities and numbers of kindergartners and other students to be using the structure at any one time will be needed before preparation of a definitive plan. Although several locations have been proposed, site visits will be needed as a part of planning. No prospective sites are visible from Route 5. Funding sources are to be identified, and then approvals by the Selectboard and Upper Valley Land Trust will be necessary before any construction begins.

The committee greatly appreciates the major help in recent weeks by the Department of Public Works in removing extensive metal fencing and controlling invasive plants in the meadow and apple orchard. This long term goal has finally been realized. Continued efforts in subsequent years to control the invasives will require selective mowing as well as likely assistance from a certified pesticide applicator. The intent of the committee is to establish native plants to replace invasives so as to provide brushy areas in addition to the meadow and orchard.

Young apple trees placed by Stan Williams promote continuation of an attractive orchard.

The committee has endorsed a plan for including the nature area in an Invasive Species Forum for the Upper Valley to be held next spring and arranged by the New England Stewardship Network and the Upper Valley Land Trust.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark