

Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for January 7, 2016

Present: George Clark, Phyllis Katz, Tracey Kawecki, Lindsay Putnam

Initial ground preparation at the site of the planned educational structure has been completed. The committee appreciates the care taken to avoid tree damage in creating the machine access route. Leveling of site is to be finished in the spring. Intent of the committee is, after use of that temporary access route through the woods is completed, to discourage use of that route by placement of brush piles at potential points of access.

Funds are presently available to cover cost for the site preparation for the educational structure. Additional fund-raising will be undertaken to help to cover cost of materials, and funds received are to go through the town Finance Office. It is anticipated that work on the structure at the site will begin in late April or May, but pieces can be pre-cut beforehand.

The committee is still seeking additional active members, and the offering of public programs was suggested as one means of attracting new members.

Suggestions for potential public events to be arranged by the committee included a winter walk for animal tracking and botany.

Whenever possible, the committee wishes to announce public programs well in advance of the date.

New trail markers are going to be needed and might be any one of a variety of kinds. Glass mosaic markers would be one possibility. If an instructor is available, the committee might offer a public evening program for adults with potluck and a work session for building mosaic glass trail markers. There is also a potential for student participation in constructing such markers. There are other conceivable possibilities for constructing trail markers, e. g., using recycled plastic. In any case, the committee seeks to retain the current color coding for marking the major trails.

Another possible adult program might be a workshop on the pruning of apple trees.

It is anticipated that, for about a month this winter, one or more volunteers will be needed to take over in emptying bagged canine deposits from the can at the kiosk into the dumpster.

At present the trails are clear of fallen trees, but one large tree leaning across outermost loop trail remains to be removed.

The next meeting of the MFNAC is to be at 3:30 PM on Thursday March 3.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark