

## Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for September 1, 2016

Present: George Clark, Gered Dunne, Fred Glanzburg, Phyllis Katz, Tracey Kawecki, Jane Lemasurier, Lindsay Putnam

Jane Lemasurier is this fall teaching a Recreation Department course in mountain biking for 12 children in grades 4 to 6. Trails in the nature area would be particularly well suited for this outdoor education, and therefore approval was sought for such use. This topic was discussed at length, covering both potentially positive and potentially negative aspects. Additional consultation will be necessary before reaching a decision, but it is hoped to be able to complete such consultation soon. It appeared likely that any possible authorization would be restricted to trial use by this particular class and that any possible longer term change would require additional consideration of current policy and obtaining approvals for any possible changes in that policy.

Fred Glanzberg presented a new forest management plan and associated map for the nature area. He outlined procedures used in developing the plan. Four major stands are recognized, each having distinctive features. The forest management plan is to be submitted to four professional forest management specialists for their suggestions. Some very limited, careful, cutting of individual unhealthy trees is recommended to be done annually. Those trees to be cut are not of a value to justify removal from the nature area. Care must be taken when trees are cut not to create settings favorable for spread of invasive plants. Efforts are recommended to encourage establishment of native plants where unhealthy trees or invasive plants are removed.

It was proposed and agreed that the committee advertise for additional members through notices in communications to parents sent out by the PTO and Principal.

A draft budget for the 2017 fiscal year was presented, approved, and is to be transmitted to the Conservation Commission. Meanwhile, additional fund raising will be needed to cover expenses to be incurred before July 2017. Several suggestions on ways to raise funds were discussed, but no specific action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark