

Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for November 5, 2015

Present: George Clark, Tracey Kawecki, Lindsay Putnam; also Bill Hammond for a part of the time

A major portion of the meeting was devoted to completing the Annual Report, which has now been submitted.

The committee agreed with suggested placement of the "prairie schooner", a moveable covered wagon exhibit, in the northeastern corner of the meadow. This wagon exhibit is important for the educational program at the school. The exhibit is to be moved by representatives from the school whenever mowing of the meadow is about to occur. This will require communication between the Department of Public Works and the Principal's office at the Marion Cross School so that the exhibit will be moved when necessary in a timely fashion.

The MFNAC greatly appreciates the major assistance given to the committee by a number of volunteers present and past over many years. It has been suggested for 2016 that the committee hold an outdoor party in the meadow to honor those volunteers.

The proposed educational structure has been approved by the Town Manager and by the Upper Valley Land Trust. A portion of funding received for that project must be spent before the end of the calendar year. Excavation work at the site should be completed before the end of the year. In preparation for the construction of the structure, a list of materials and their costs has been submitted to the committee. Additional fund raising by the scout in charge will augment the funds now available to meet the total estimated cost.

On two recent days, students at the school have participated in pulling up invasive plants. As a result of work over the summer, not so many invasive plants have been available to be pulled as compared with a year ago. Next spring, Fred Glanzberg is to assess the situation with regard to invasive plants. It was noted that removal of invasive plants has been initiated on the abutting property of the church. It will be very helpful for control of invasive plants in the nature area if seed-producing invasive plants around the perimeter of the school property can also be controlled. It is hoped for 2016 that Fred Glanzberg may be able to help in control of those invasive plants in the perimeter area.

The current plan is to mow the meadow twice per year until the invasive plants are under control. Thereafter, one mowing a year should suffice, except possibly around the stone wall where two mowings per year might be needed for several additional years.

Funds for mowing the meadow during 2015 were from the Conservation Commission budget.

It is anticipated that all MFNAC funds will soon be handled by the Town Finance Office, with the present MFNAC checking account being closed beforehand.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark