

Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for October 6, 2016

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

Emma Sablan, an assisting aide in the children's mountain biking course currently authorized to use nature area trails on a trial basis, reported that students are being instructed in principles of trail etiquette and stewardship of the land. Three rides have been held with another planned. A dozen students from 4th through 6th grades are enrolled in that course sponsored by the Recreation Department. No damage to trails has been reported by independent observers. Emma answered questions from the committee members, and the committee thanked her for a most helpful report.

Phyllis Katz is preparing for initial review by the committee, with planned subsequent public distribution, a communication about canine cleanup.

The committee discussed the Forest Management Plan. Comments had so far been received from three foresters. One of these, David Hobson of the Norwich Conservation Commission, had offered numerous thoughtful suggestions for expanding the previously received plan to become more comprehensive. The committee greatly appreciated his proposals but currently lacks any funds for implementation. The committee would welcome having additions for the plan, if available at no cost to the committee.

A session to uproot invasive plants in the nature area has been scheduled from 4:30 to 5:30 PM on Wednesday October 26. Volunteers should bring work gloves and shovels. This event is to be publicized on the Norwich listserv.

Contents for the committee Annual Report were discussed, and the report was then approved and submitted.

It is anticipated that the new educational structure will be completed by Thanksgiving. Additional volunteer helpers will be needed when the trusses and roof are installed.

Committee finances were discussed, and possible sources of income considered. Donations will be welcomed.

Because two positions on the committee are expected become vacant within the next 12 months, the committee plans to advertise for additional members.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark