

Topic: Town Forest Committee meeting

Time: December 13, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748088894?pwd=THhkNThUNDlvckpxU0dHa2xsSmh5dz09>

Meeting ID: 867 4808 8894

Passcode: 405651

In attendance via Zoom: Gary Riggott, Liana Cosgrove, Matt Lundsten, Mike Mansen, Chris Weylman

Guests:

Steve Maio (DPW guest – foreman for parks / contact guy go-to)

- Call to order 7:xxpm
- Acceptance of prior meeting's Minutes: 0-0-0
- Open Time for Community at Large
- Treasurer's Report – Liana reported \$4,081.31

New Business:

- Footbridge at 1A fields update
- Pollinator garden is looking bad again with over weeding
 - Weed barriers? Ask Jim. Could get more chips?
 - Good project for school / scout project
- Expanding town forest committee members for non voting members. (Aoife said we are at capacity (3 regular members, 2 associate members – not including Jim). Need to vote for odd # of people – formal request from the committee saying when we voted and why. Once Aoife receives request, she can place on upcoming select board for approval
 - Chris to look into making Mike and John associate members
- December meeting – DCR poster contest
- Quarterly meetings are scheduled on second Tuesday of the last month. 2024 meetings – March 12th, June 11th, September 10th, December 10th

The Gary list: Town of Walpole Finance in process of \$20k funding for below projects (need to stack rank):

- Beaver project near Jarvis farm – Gary 0 – Beavers 5
 - New culvert being replaced in 2024
- Bench near boardwalk – memorial project from trails committee – Rob Belcher – back in town and will finish bench in fall
- Glen bridge – install sidings / project for this summer – between boardwalk and Jarvis Farm – Summer 2023
- Metacomet Rail trail –
 - Bridge over 1a fields
 - Metacomet railroad trail, big issue is the pitch issue at the front of the trail
 - 2 quotes received, both \$60k
 - Grants available for trail building

- Extend trail under Common street and working with Norwood trails to extend trails to Norwood Stop and Shop
- Stairs at Endean trail – behind ever so humble pie, steep embankment
- Erosion area near basketball courts. Channel water with diverters. Weekend of 9/24th - phase 1 complete (diverters, mulch). Phase 2 – another corner near river needs work. Lots of roots exposed. Gary to work with Jim on improvement idea
- Update on mapping project: to make new signs to make it easier to navigate in the Walpole woods, Endean trail, & Pinnacle trail. Barbara from Trails committee is leading this project. Work date ~October time frame
 - Two more sign posts to install in town forest and more on the Pinnacle trail
- New second bench near dam to be privately purchased, make footing around concrete slab

Other test project sites for invasive species:

1. new white pines (near high school)
2. white pines on east parcel – need help in finding area, can call Steve for help
3. Parking lot at south street
4. Clean up pollinator garden
5. Try to find large plants to mark off (September) to cut down in winter time – north side of fire road near public works – bittersweet vine – talk in January