

Minutes

I Call to order: 6:03 pm at Holley Hall Dec. 14, 2023

Attended by Carolyn Dash, Kristin Underwood, John Merriman, Helen Young, Nancy Morrison, Zelig Smith, Zac Farnham-Haskell, Porter Knight, David Goldsmith, Alexis Mychajliw

II Public Comment Period - none

III Addition of Items to the Agenda - none

IV Review and approval of minutes from Nov 9 meeting. JM motioned to approve; KU seconded

V Correspondence

VI Old Business

- **Park accessibility and signage:** discussion lead by Porter Knight. Select board has agreed to move forward on examining access to Eagle, Sycamore, and Memorial Parks. RFP created by Porter; out soon to get to design stage; a review committee will be established and someone from BCC will be on it. Select board used ARPA to fund this design phase; we'll need seek additional funding to actually do the work.

VORAC funding - applied for town-wide signage, accessibility - get more information about this.

Brainstormed about options for Memorial Park - PK suggested that perhaps entry to the park be from the common driveway on other side of river and remove bridge. AS's ideas: establish trail below bridge and don't include bridge at all.

Signs still being modeled / worked on.

- **Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access** – updates by Zac. Consider a non-permanent disk-golf at Sycamore

Park. Possibly leave them up during summer. Careful placement of goals advised: avoid river banks, etc.

Do something in a park on the solar eclipse - maybe a Rec Park, since it has more parking (not much parking at Sycamore or Eagle).

Selectboard approved the management plans of Eagle, Sycamore, and Memorial Parks on Oct 30.

Ledges trail - A Johnson Co. mill operations are shutting down; Ken Johnson intends to hold onto the land parcel in the vicinity of the Ledges trail and make it accessible to the public.

Eagle Park ramp and fishing platform completed; we can re-plant the perennials in the spring

- **Wildlife project partnership with Middlebury College**

- discussion of Fall '23 work lead by David Goldsmith. Finishing this month; will make a 'story board' available to us in the spring. Presentation on importance of corridors and connectivity. Are wildlife using culverts as crossing points? Yes, for Sycamore (under bridge). Memorial had mink, bobcat, porcupine, fisher red squirrel; Sycamore had flying squirrel and beaver. Both had gray fox, raccoon, deer, dogs, grey squirrel, eastern cottontail. Recommendations: eliminate knotweed at Sycamore (it may exclude wildlife); leave Memorial Park undisturbed

- discussion of ENVS0401 course collaboration during Spring '24. 17 students total; one group (N=5) will work with BCC; scope of project and then give students independence to work out the project; maybe have them do tracking around where Sophie worked; mapping activities; more camera trapping in targeted areas (corridors that Sophie identified). Larger picture: have them work with Planning Commission and Zoning Commission (or at least present to them).

Need a leader from BCC, plus 1-2 others. Class meets on Thurs afternoons; we can meet with them in person / via Zoom / or in Bristol

- **Annual report due Dec 28;** Zelig will do this
- **Conservation Commission Membership:** the BCC has a vacancy for 1 member

IX Next Meeting: January 11 at 6:00pm, in Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option. Use this meeting to set priorities for the year

X Adjournment: KU moved; ZS seconded.