

Town of Edgecomb
Minutes for Schmid Preserve Advisory Board Meeting
April 19, 2017, 7 p.m., Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chair Bob Leone called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Members present were Jim Beam, Bob Leone, Lisa McSwain, David Nutt and Mark Warren. Andy Abello was absent. There was no public input.

2. Chairman's Report – Bob Leone

a. Review of Meeting Minutes: The minutes were accepted as amended.

b. Next Meeting – May 17, 2017

3. Selectmen's Report – Mike Smith

a. Town Meeting – May 13

b. Dan Skillin – ME Forest Service – Mike Smith asked Dan Skillin to answer any questions Fire Chief Potter might have and give an oversight on addressing large areas of land. In response to Smith's question as to how the state would react to a fire in the Schmid Preserve, Skillin said the Town Warden has the first responsibility to respond to a forest fire and when the Forest Ranger arrives, he has ultimate onsite authority in a forest fire. Because of the number of towns Skillin has to cover, it may take some time for him to respond to a fire. He said according to the deeds to the Schmid Preserve, the roads must be maintained. There is one helicopter for the southern region stationed in Augusta which can be called by the Forest Ranger when needed. If the ranger orders additional equipment such as a bulldozer, the town is responsible for one quarter of 1% of the town's valuation.

Roy Potter said the biggest problem was access and the maintenance of roads for emergency response. He said the department's brush truck is unable to get out to the preserve; a larger vehicle would be needed to get people and equipment out to a fire. His only hope is to get to a fire quickly. Bob Leone said the Schmid volunteers keep the brush cut back along the trails and have the fields mowed every year. He said the roads are soft in the spring and there is a period of time when fire danger is high. He said the preserve can't buy gravel, but they will try to drain some of the puddles. There are three access points to the preserve which could be accessed by an ATV. Roy Potter said his key does not work in the locks.

Mike Smith asked if a one-time contribution of \$5000 would be useful to purchase gravel; the funds could come from the sale of lots the town owns. David Nutt said that unless the water flow problems were addressed, it would be a waste of money. He said it would probably cost \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Roy Potter said if someone were hurt on the preserve now, they would have to hand carry them out. Bob Leone said the hardest access spot is on the DRA property, some areas will always be inaccessible and it is difficult to eliminate risk. He asked if it were possible to get a FEMA grant for a side-by-side. Potter said he is always working on grants, but they are drying up and competition is becoming stiffer. Skillin said several departments have had success in obtaining grants by hiring a grant writer.

Bob Leone said the board would try to do ditching and drainage and see where gravel is needed. Mt. Hunger Road North would be the best place to start to make it accessible.

Skillin offered his UTV (that will hold six people) to look at the preserve. He said it may also be possible to have the use of a helicopter to view the preserve. Skillin and the board will discuss a trip in June after the worst fire weeks. Jim Beam said maintaining roads for fire protection is in the management plan and he recommended maintaining the road to the Haggett field for a staging area as the first goal. The board will work on edges of trails, and try to get a crown back on the road with ditches on the side. Mike Smith said the selectmen would like to hear a recommendation from the Schmid Board after town meeting. Bob Leone will investigate the cost for a man and excavator.

4. Land Acquisition, Boundaries and Roads – Mark Warren

Jack Sarmanian has submitted a grant for survey work.

5. Public Relations and Stewardship – Andy Abello, Lisa McSwain

a. Signage: No report

b. Mapping: Lisa reported that Dave Santillo is pushing Tedford Tech for a May 1st delivery of the maps. She reported that the QR readers have been installed.

c. Annual Town Report: Bob Leone reported that the Town Report was finished and will be available about May 1st.

6. Trails – Jim Beam, David Nutt

a. River~Link Work trip, Monday, April 24, 5 p.m. Volunteers will meet at McKay Road with loppers and gloves. Sunday, April 30 is also a possibility for a work trip.

7. Other Business

David Nutt reported that he would be attending a mountain bike building course in Auburn on May 20.

8. Public Input and Comment

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.