

MINUTES OF SCHMID PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 17, 2021
EDGECOMB TOWN HALL, 7 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Members present were Andy Abello, Chair Lisa McSwain, Rick Nelson, David Nutt, and Rebecca Schaffner. Also present were Barrie Brusila, Maron Granstrom, Janet McMahon and Selectman Mike Smith.

- a. Review of Minutes of October 2021. A typo was corrected, and the minutes were approved.
- b. Next meeting January 19, 2022 via Zoom
- c. Selectmen's Report – No report.

3. Barrie Brusilla and Janet McMahon on Management Plan

Barrie Brusilla and Janet McMahon discussed the previous management plan adopted in 1997 and the legal decision regarding the ban on timber harvesting for the sole purpose of generating revenue. They discussed the changes in the preserve over the past twenty years, and the impact harvesting timber would have on the preserve. Some of the timber was 70 years old at the time of the current management plan and is now nearly 90 years old, some approaching 100. They spoke of the preserve's potential asset to the region. Barrie Brusilla asked what the justification would be for not following the original management plan.

The response was mixed from "opening a can of worms" if the board does not follow the original plan, to "let the trees mature," to preserving the historical sites, to leaving a small section forever wild. Mike Smith said the town was comfortable with what the board was doing and if the harvesting were done for preventative measures or maintenance not money. Mike Smith pointed out that future boards with younger members may have different opinions on the management of the preserve. Janet McMahon said it was not a case of all or nothing. The best solution might be a balance of different approaches, managing 100 acres and leaving 700 not managed for instance. She said harvesting could be done for invasive species control.

It was suggested that the field work be completed followed by recommendations to the board for its consideration before a final decision is made.

4. Land Acquisition, Boundaries, Roads

- a. Update on Abbott property. (Coastal Rivers, Steve Huffnagel ???)

5. Trails

- a. Trail conditions are good. Rick will work on the ramps for the bridges.
- b. Edgcomb Blitz: Rick reported that there were 26 riders for the Blitz and \$640 was raised.

c. Blocking of ATV access to preserve: The access sites have not been blocked; it will be an issue in the spring.

d. Report on River~Link meeting: The biggest roadblock is a short piece that David Clifford owns. It was suggested that for the wet area fabric be put down covered with crushed stone and 4 x 6 pressure treated wood. Cost would be \$2200 without the stone.

6. Endowment

The fund has been established with a \$10,000 donation. The set-up fee was \$250. Lisa will put together plans for grant possibilities and donations.

7. Other Business

a. Budget balance: \$2,164.00

b. Volunteer hours – Laura is keeping track of volunteer hours.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.