

Town of Edgecomb  
Minutes for Schmid Preserve Advisory Board Meeting  
January 19, 2022, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Andy Abello, Laura Lubelczyk, Chair Lisa McSwain, Rick Nelson, David Nutt, and Rebecca Schaffner

1. Call to Order: Chair Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
  - a. Review minutes from November 2021: David Nutt moved to approve the minutes as written. Vote 6-0-0.
  - b. Next Meeting – February 16, 2022
2. Selectmen’s Report: Mike Smith was not present.
3. Barrie Brusilla: Continued discussion of Management Plan and preserve objectives going forward

Barrie Brusilla reported that Maren Granstrom had three to four days of field work remaining. She reported that there are an alarming number of invasive plants on the Hazelton lot, which, although not part of original property, will continue to take over preserve. She also noted the hemlock wooly adelgid had been found. She was concerned with the stand of big hemlock around the stream, which if they die, will be unsightly and a fire hazard. She recommended some areas be set aside until the adelgid gets worse. She said thinning to increase diversity would provide income to pay for invasive control and could be used toward the endowment. She said the Hazelton property doesn’t fall under the legal judgement of the Schmid Preserve, but that might be open to interpretation.

Lisa McSwain asked how difficult it would be to get timber out of the preserve if harvesting was done to get rid of the hemlock wooly adelgid. Barrie Brusilla said there were areas that were not accessible and not worth the effort to get the timber out like the top of the slopes and along the stream. Maren Granstrom will email board members when she will be in the area and would be glad to take board members to the affected areas. Maren said it was not feasible for hand crews to move the timber, bigger machinery would be necessary and then the sprouts close to ground would need to be sprayed. David Nutt said some diseases could be defined as invasive such as the emerald ash borer.

Lisa McSwain said that Joan Ray, who may come to a future meeting, thinks the board should have conservation easement placed on the entire preserve. Barrie Brusilla said Ray was probably concerned that some of the property might be sold. David Nutt said there was value in managing the invasive disease through harvesting because where pines are so tightly packed, they’re going to end up dying. Selective cutting would preserve the area and eliminate invasion of disease and provide some financial resources to be put back into the preserve. He said it seems wasteful to let the hemlock die when the proceeds could benefit the preserve.

A draft of the management plan will be available at the end of February. In response to Laura Lubelcyk's question, Maren Granstrom said the report would address the multi-use nature of the preserve, not just timber management. Andy Abello suggested having an area set aside just for walking paths with no trails, bikes or running, just a place to be.

Barrie Brusilla said she might organize a walk to help the group see some of the things discussed before finalizing the plan within the next month.

#### 4. Land Acquisition, Boundaries and Roads

Lisa McSwain said that Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust to which Mrs. Abbott was going to donate her property had suggested \$5,000 to support her donation. Mrs. Abbott had decided not to donate to CRCT after she heard this and withdrew her offer.

#### 5. Trails

#### 6. Endowment

a. Grant possibilities. Lisa McSwain had contacted several organizations for donations to the endowment but said the board needed to have a longer discussion on raising money for the endowment, whether it be targeting individuals or a public fund-raising drive.

#### 7. Other Business

b. Members should email their volunteer hours including plowing hours to Laura Lubelczyk.

Meetings will continue remotely via Microsoft Teams which Rick Nelson will manage to extend meeting time which is limited with the free Zoom application.

#### 8. Adjournment

Andy Abello moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Vote 6-0-0.