

Town of Edgecomb

Schmid Preserve Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, March 16, 2022

Present: Chair Lisa McSwain, Becky Schaffner, Laura Lubelczyk, Andy Abello, Mike Smith

Absent: David Nutt, Rick Nelson

1. Call to order: Chair Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. Review of Minutes from January 19, 2022: Becky Schaffner moved to accept minutes as written. Approved unanimously.
3. Selectman's report: Mike Smith said that the Preserve budget request is on the warrant for the May 21 referendum. He also suggested that a board member attend the next Edgecomb Meet and Greet to talk about the Preserve. Lisa asked where info about the meet and greets could be found. Becky has seen them on Nextdoor and Facebook.
4. Discussion of February 12 walk on the Preserve with Barrie Brusilla and Maren Granstrom: The major issue is the extensive stands of invasive plants in various locations. Presence of hemlock wooly adelgid is also a problem. One idea may be to restore to pasture/field the area around the foundation on the portion of the River Link trail between Old County Rd and the spur from Mt. Hunger Rd. north. There are multiple invasives in that area (Asiatic bittersweet, barberry, honeysuckle, etc.) It may be possible to work with BRLT and CRCT to address issues along the River Link portion. The area would require management. Issues of access for logging and future management remain to be discussed. A draft of the management plan should be available soon.
5. Trail conditions: Very muddy, one tree is down on the purple trail. There was some discussion of how to discourage 4-wheel riders from accessing the preserve. There is a need to look into safest, legal ways to block off access points.
6. Alice Abbott property: Still in limbo.
7. Endowment and fundraising: There was discussion of various fundraising efforts, including an article in the paper, writing grant proposals, flyers, community gatherings, sponsorships, educational opportunities such as guided tours and birding walks, and approaching individual potential donors. Laura and Becky discussed creating a survey (online and paper forms) about usage of the Preserve.
8. Budget: There is currently \$795.58 remaining.
9. Volunteer hours: everyone is reminded to submit hours to Laura, or to enter them in the Google spreadsheet.
10. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.