

Town of Edgecomb
Schmid Preserve Advisory Board Minutes
September 210, 2023

In attendance: Chair Lisa McSwain, Andy Abello, Rick Nelson, Becky Schaffner, Laura Lubelczyk, Cindy Nickerson, Selectman Mike Smith

1. Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7:00.

A. The minutes from June 21, 2023, were not read as they are not able to be accessed.

B. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18, starting at 7:00, at the Town Hall.

C. Selectman's Report: Mike Smith briefly explained that there is a possible resolution to the tennis court issue by acquiring land to be added to the Schmid Preserve that is for recreation and ADA approved. With the recent and sad passing of Barry Hathorne, the town may have an opportunity to work with his heirs on acquisition of several of his properties which have tax liens. As the liens mature, there is the opportunity for both Barry's estate and the Town of Edgecomb to come to a mutually acceptable agreement that benefits both parties.

2. MISC.

A. Allen Hersom will be mowing the fields in the next 6-8 weeks.

B. The Fall Work Day will be held on Sunday, November 5, with a rain date for the following Sunday, November 12. Lisa McSwain will send out a Save-the-Date reminder.

C. The Gravel Ride is a bicycle event that is headed by Rick Nelson. Although the event is held outside of Edgecomb this year, some of the proceeds are donated to the Schmid Preserve. Rick Nelson reports that the event is coming together. It will be held on Sunday, October 1, between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:30ish pm. Rick will send the link to the Advisory Board members so they can spread the word. The event is still in need of bite-sized goodies at the rest station.

3. ON-GOING PROJECTS

A. There will be a training session on how to blaze the boundaries so all volunteers/board members are consistent in technique.

B. Chuck Lubelczyk has offered to begin the preserve's invasive mitigation program. In coordination with the University of Southern Maine's Department of Environmental Science and Policy (DESP) the Schmid Preserve will be hosting a student organization from the DESP with invasive removal on October 22. The primary area that will be targeted that day will be centered around the Haggett Field and its existing foundations. Asiatic bittersweet and Eurasian honeysuckle will be the primary focus and will result in heavy cutting. There will be approximately 12 students assisting. At the next meeting on October 18, the Advisory Board will decide whether to burn the debris on site or haul it to a remote site to burn, or the dump.

4. TRAILS

A. The bridges look "pretty good," but there are several places that are in clear need of

repair and building new ones, especially in light of next year's 250th Anniversary of the Town of Edgecomb.

1. The short plank on the main road needs to be replaced.
2. Out of the field on the Purple Trail needs 2 planks for crossing the small brook area.
3. On the Haggett Loop Trail, the brook after the ravine needs a plank crossing.
4. The White Trail needs a bridge built at the stream crossing.
5. From the Bob Brown Parking Lot, the first wet area at the intersection of the Brown/Yellow trails needs a geotech/gravel crossing laid on the road. Another 200 feet down is another stretch that needs the same geotech/gravel crossing. After that, there are several places on the main road (Yellow Trail) that need plank crossings.

Lisa and Joe will scout the yellow trail to estimate yards of gravel and geotech needed. Lisa also proposed to use endowment funds if there is not enough money in the current budget.

- B. There are some trees down that need to be cleared before the Fall Work Day.
- C. There is still some confusion about the green and brown trails. The Hilltop, Moose, and Brown trails need to be repainted, along with the Blue and White trails. Lisa has the paint.

5. ENDOWMENT FUND

- A. The endowment Fund is at approximately \$80,000 with new donations of \$11,500.
- B. Cindy Nickerson will look into grant possibilities for projects, rather than endowment growth. Creating a pitch for funders needs to be articulated in order to query. What will be achieved and how much money is needed?
- C. How do we solicit next?

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Becky has the boxes for the surveys. Lisa will get the cards printed.
- B. Signs that say "Leave No Trace" are not effective for the goals of stopping mining and removing material. Cindy suggested simply language of "Historical Conservation Site. Do not disturb." Laura would like to add a sentence or two of history on the signs that are at the mica mines, together with the mission of the Schmid Preserve. Minuteman Signs on 297 State Street in Augusta (207-512-8617) make long-lasting metal signs to order at a reasonable price. Discussion of where to place the signs included the sites of: Haggett Field foundation, the River Link foundation, and both mica mines.
- C. Email Laura any volunteer hours. She will send the Board members the GOOGLE doc to record the hours.
- D. Regarding the "Dark Sky Designation," Becky added that the Central Maine Astronomical Society would be interested in coming out and measuring lumens in the preserve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.