

Bath Community Forestry Committee Minutes

March 11th, 2025

Present: Nancy Sferra, Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Barbara West, Bruce Brennan, Jim Hummer, Leiha Lynn, Jack Hernandez; Guest – Brian Milakovsky

- Introductions (and favorite trees)
 - Red oak (N), black gum (Bar), willow (L), sugar maple (Ja), hemlock (Bri), balsam fir (Jim), no favorite tree (Bru)
- Approval of February meeting minutes
- **To Do:** Barbara will email minutes to Gabby and Steve and let them know approved
- Task tracker BFCF Action Items (in own email with own link from Leiha)
 - Leiha did a quick run through and explanation of format and content
 - Set up volunteers for managing invasives(?) If you see your name it means you said you'd do it. If highlighted, that means it needs someone to take ownership.
 - **To Do:** Nancy will send out doodle poll for invasives workday
 - **To Do:** Jim will follow up with codes officer on status of DEP verdict about tire removal/conservation easement
 - **To Do - All:** review task tracker, add deadline for any tasks you "own" and take on tasks as you are able by adding your name. If you need committee feedback, please make sure your task is added to our next meeting agenda
- Budget for Forestry Division:
 - Submitted a request for additional items
 - New staff person (Asst Forester)
 - Bucket truck
 - Lift replacement
 - Stump grinder
 - Telehandler with saw head
 - **To Do:** Megan will find out when time is right to advocate
- One Drive: Still awaiting word from Marc about what to use
- Nursery:
 - Water line – may be able to reuse some of the existing pipelines, could use drip line, doesn't freeze and break. Come up with a low maintenance system. Real drip line is the best choice for long term maintenance.
 - **To Do:** Bruce – Find wood for raised beds.
 - **To Do:** Bruce will add tree planting site alongside visitors center to list on Dropbox
 - **To Do:** Bruce will come up with a workplan for the nursery and we'll set a date via email.
 - **To Do:** Nancy will do a doodle poll once Bruce has created the plan
- Butler Head Trails – We need to pull the cut logs out of the woods next to Mallard Trail. Bruce offered to cut them on his portable mill to use for decking on the bridge on Harlequin. Need 3 workdays – pulling logs out of woods, milling logs, finishing bog bridge
 - **To Do:** Nancy will send out Doodle Poll for workday to pull logs
- Bird Walks - **To Do:** Nancy will set a date and email the committee. Most likely May 10th.

- Big Night
 - Need to determine how to get more people engaged
 - Timing TBD. Nights need to be consistently above 45F to get amphibians moving.
- Accounts: Nursery shed, \$1,291. Forestry: \$4,900. Butler Head maple sugar account. Outside of trust. Will need hemlock, soil, dirt. Sugar tap \$ got deposited into Forestry Committee donations account instead of maple BH account. Will go into BH sugar maple account this year as per Steve B.
- Whiskeag Trail: KELT and others will be doing trail remediation and part of it crosses city property. Asked to use city sawmill, not in condition suitable for them to use. **To Do:** Nancy will check back with KELT to see if there's anything they want from BCFC.
- Newsletter: All reviewing news article assignments.
 - Leiha will add mushroom walk with photos from the previous year to highlight upcoming event. MYC and Community Involvement Day and High School – Leiha
- Waste wood: biochar not feasible as yet although there is interest in regional operation
- **To Do:** Bruce will sell the auction items, money will go to committee account
- Onboarding document: **To Do All:** review and send email with any feedback
- Staff updates: None at this time
- **To Do:** Leiha and Nancy Donation link for funeral homes – confirm correct donation link and ensure language is good. **To Do:** Next, Barbara and Leiha will follow up with funeral homes.
- Committee updates
- Brief discussion of firewood volunteer program(?) Still a topic of conversation, no decision made of whether to push for program renewal. Burning wood is a source of emissions and wood is currently used for mulch.
- Discussion of upcoming events including May City Council presentation, invasives workshop June 21st, bird walk, etc.
- Androscoggin Soil & Water Conservation has sale on, may be worth planting densely and spreading out next year

Upcoming Events:

- To schedule: Three Butler Head workdays: for BH - Get logs, mill logs and then take logs back and do the work.
- To schedule: At least one Nursery workday, likely two: raised beds, planting, etc.
- Bird walk Saturday May 10th
- To schedule: Amphibian Big Night – Date TBD
- Mushroom walk TBD

Action Items

- **To Do:** Barbara will email minutes to Gabby and Steve and let them know approved
- BCFC Task Tracker:
 - **To Do:** Nancy will send out doodle poll on invasives

- **To Do:** Jim will take on letter from DEP about tire removal/conservation easement
- **To Do - All:** review task tracker, add deadline for any tasks you “own” and take on tasks as you are able by adding your name. If you need committee feedback, please make sure your task is added to our next meeting agenda
- **To Do –** Megan: Talk to Councilors and find out when is a good time for committee members to come and advocate for the Forestry budget at Council budget
- **To Do:** Bruce – Find wood for raised beds.
- **To Do:** Bruce will add tree planting site alongside visitors center to list on Dropbox
- **To Do:** Bruce will come up with a workplan for the nursery and we’ll set a date via email.
 - **To Do:** Nancy will do a doodle poll for BH workday once Bruce has created the plan
- **To Do:** BH Workday. Get logs from Butler Head for a small bridge. Bruce can mill the wood. Nancy will help. Wood will be moved back to BH afterward. All will help.
 - **To Do:** Nancy will set up a poll to figure out what day in May will work for us to do the work.
- Bird Walks **To Do:** Nancy will set a date and email the committee. Most likely May 10th.
- **To Do:** Nancy will check back with KELT to see if there’s anything they want from BCFC.
- **To Do:** Bruce will sell the auction items, money will go to committee account
- **To Do - All:** review onboarding document and send email with any feedback.
- **To Do:** Leiha and Nancy Donation link for funeral homes – confirm correct donation link and ensure language is good. **To Do:** Next, Barbara and Leiha will follow up with funeral homes.