

Bath Community Forestry Committee
Minutes of February 11, 2025 meeting

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Sferra at 4:05. Present were Bruce Brennan, Nate Hassett, Jack Hernandez, Jim Hummer, Leiha Lynn (by phone), Nancy Sferra, Barbara West

Minutes of January 2025 meeting were approved.

Leiha has uploaded the updated task tracker from the annual meeting to Drop Box. There was some discussion of how to maintain it. Committee members are asked to look at the tracker and comment on completed or pending tasks they have taken responsibility for so we can clear away old tasks to make room for new goals.

Letter in support of Jack's budget request was sent to Steve Balboni and to Marc Meyers for the city council.

Our annual presentation to City Council is scheduled for May 7.

Update on One Drive and email addresses:

Messages to forestry@cityofbath.com are forwarded to city staff and Nancy. Our website remains www.bathforestry.com

We will be using One Drive to replace Drop Box within the next 2 to 3 months. All committee members will have access and we can create an email group. Nancy will check record retention requirements.

Nursery rehab:

Bruce distributed copies of the drawing of the proposed layout, based on meeting with Nancy and Barbara. We agreed to build the first bed this spring. Jack will check with Steve Balboni about installing water service close to the beds. Bruce will follow up with Terry Hanna to have her put Nancy's honorarium for her presentation to the Garden Club in the nursery account. Bruce will also follow up with Steve to see where the sugarbush funds get deposited to determine if they can be used by the committee or if they go into the Forestry Division budget.

Finances:

Bruce distributed copies of the most recent statement of our accounts. Forestry Trust Account stands at \$72,942.23. This year's interest so far is \$945.83. The separation accessible account contains \$12,530. At our April annual trust meeting we will discuss use of the \$1400 in the Sugarbush account and using the \$627 remaining in the nursery account for the nursery rehab. Those funds came from a grant and fundraising to erect the building and buy tools.

Newsletter:

Articles will be due by March 7. This issue will feature the nursery history and rehab, and a request for donations to support that project. In addition to the articles described in the January meeting minutes, there will be one thanking Skillins for their donation of trees. There was discussion of a targeted mailing of the newsletter in hopes of stimulating more contributions, decision to be made at the March meeting. Our old mailing list is too outdated to be useful.

Butler Head:

Nancy is recertified for Big Night amphibian activities. As usual, the exact date can't be predicted. She will also offer a bird walk in May. Bruce will lead a workshop on invasives on June 21.

Trail blazing was never completed and some existing blazes are fading. There is one more bridge to complete.

Arbor Week:

We will plant at least one tree on Centre St. May 21 for our Arbor Day celebration.

Druid Park:

Bruce and Nancy will meet with Steve Balboni in the spring to talk to him about Druid Park, maintenance of the gardens, and the potential to transition to planting native trees and shrubs that are lower maintenance. Our hope is to plant the remaining tree from Skillins at the park.

Waste wood:

Solid Waste Committee is interested in meeting with us about this issue in the future

Auction items:

Bruce will find a solution for the remaining ring.

After brief reports about the work of related committees
(Bike/pedestrian/transportation, Community development, Housing), meeting
was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Next meeting will be March 11, 2025 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara West