



Pondicherry Park Stewardship Committee

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, Jan 3rd 5:00pm

Roll Call: Mary Jewett, Chair; Bear Zaidman, Selectman; Bob Peabody, Town Manager; Mark LaGoda, Town rep; Dan Edwards, Town rep; Leigh Hayes, LEA alternate; Allen Erler, town alternate and secretary. Guest, Jim Kidder, Public Works Director.

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 5:10pm.

Mary Jewett distributed copies of emails that were sent to Bob Peabody outlining costs for tree work at the park.

Jim Kidder stated that he felt it would be best to proceed with a day rate for the job. Bear had questions on the crew numbers that each company would be bringing. Those who viewed Kyle Warren's tree stripping and removal machinery felt that it did a good job and should be part of the removal work. Trees with no bark should just be taken down and left to decompose.

Bear believes that it is the consensus of the committee to pile up downed trees in some areas and grind up and leave the debris in other locations. Also leave whole taken down trees where possible. Leigh recommended leaving piles of chips where they would be less noticeable.

Mary noted that we do not know how much time is needed for the tree work.

It was mentioned that QTeam would need approximately 5 days' time and that would be a two man crew plus Kyle Warren.

Bob Peabody said that \$15,000 has been approved and is available for the job.

Jim Kidder questioned where to start. It appears that the dog trail would be the prime area.

Bear suggested that we continue with discussion between Jim Kidder and the tree contractors and hold off the final decision until we receive Jim's recommendations for the work.

Other: Invasives

Mary reported that plans are being made for a survey of invasive plants in the park. Nancy Olmstead, a biologist from

the state is acting in an advisory role on that project.

Bob asked what CMP does regarding invasives. Do they have easement authority to spray? Further discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Icy trails: Pondicherry Park trails are icy in many areas but this is a seasonal hazard.



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Regular meeting dates:

It was agreed that a set monthly meeting date is needed. It was recommended and accepted that the meeting would

take place in the first Thursday of the month. Mary will email members prior to our next meeting.

The accessible trail project was tabled but will be in the agenda for our next meeting.

Allen will be stepping down as secretary and a replacement is being sought. Leigh will next month's minutes with Dan Edwards being a backup. Mary will talk to Heather Rorer to see if she would take over as secretary.

Springtime work:

LEA and other volunteer crews will work on trails and invasives.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm

Allen Erler, Secretary