

June 3, 2024  
DRAFT Minutes of the Forest and Parks Commission  
Chelsea Town Library  
Start time 6:00 pm

Present: Jen Chase, Susan Elder, Andy Pomerantz, Linda Kuban, John Latham and Marty Gratz via google meets.

Meeting minutes from May 2024 were approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Marty Gratz said that Will Gilman asked about decorating trees between her house and basketball court park with solar lights. She will do that for the Old Home Days celebration in August.

Snook Dowling has a request for fill to be added to the north common in the low spot near Rt. 110 side (near white flower pot). He asked if there was still money in budget for this. He feels it will take four loads. He wanted to remind folks that the Keyser funds were specifically for the parks only. Also he wanted to caution that any trails made on the town forest be self funded with grants. He does not want trail maintenance to fall back onto the road crew as they have enough of a work load. (Susan spoke to Snook after the meeting - Snook was not present).

Town Commons: Linda asked that the topic of not climbing trees on the parks could be a part of our educational efforts. This has been a problem and causes damage to the trees and children get stuck. It was suggested that our group along with Zeb Allen could hold an informational booth at the farmers market on tree health.

Selectboard questions: Susan reported on the meeting with the selectboard last month. The selectboard will look into the status of the Forest management plan status, ie: signing and further logging. Zeb Allen was appointed as Tree Warden. The selectboard approved the installation of signage at the town forest concerning where to park and trailhead signage. Additional signage would be installed after any trails were made.

There was a discussion on the use of the town greens for events. The selectboard is willing to look at the inconsistencies in the permissions granted concerning driving onto the green and the 1984 Ordinance. The selectboard would like the Forest and Parks Commission to come up with some suggestions for better use of the greens to keep vehicles off the Commons or to keep vehicles away from the tree roots, including signage and public education. The selectboard agreed that public education about the issue should be foremount and would include such information on the town's website.

The town does not have an aerator for the greens therefore they asked the commission to cost-out the expense of renting or buying one and draft a schedule of when this should be done.

Linda said she will ask Dave Farnham if he has one the town could use.

Town Commons: In conjunction with the use of the greens the group would like to revise the "Use of the Commons" agreement that the town gives out to applicants who ask to use the green. The form includes a

reference to the 1984 Ordinance but does not spell out the “no driving on the Commons” rule. The group will revise the language of the form and present it to the selectboard to ask if the form could be updated.

Spring fundraiser/memorial trees: Since Pete Amber was not present Jen Chase tabled this issue.

Susan reported that the Spark Grant was awarded to the town. She will draft a schedule for the next steps. Andy Pomerantz suggested that we start with a walk through on the property involved.

Marty asked that the town address the chervil problem along the streams. Is renting equipment a possibility? She attended a seminar and is getting information on invasive eradication. Chervil is spreading along the waterways. She is gathering more information. Traffic on woodland trails encourages the spread of invasives.

Andy wonders if any trail planning on the town forest should wait until the fall as the foliage is thick right now. He also wonders if we could ask an expert on mapping to join a future meeting. There may be a possible trail connection to Harp Hill but part of the land is privately owned..

Next meeting will be July 1.

Adjourn. End at 6:50 p.m.