

Attendees: Rich Cooper, Sam Harris, Paula Rand, Pat deBeers, Bruce deBeers, Mary Kaltenbach, Jack Karcz, Anne Beliveau

The FOSG held a brief meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2023. This note will serve as a summary and minutes of this discussion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

Old and Continuing Projects - Actions and time frames for completion

1. Interpretive Nature Trail: Finish installation of the informational posts into the ground along the Depot and Marsh Trails. It has been decided that this is the FOS Group's #1 priority for 2023. Our group consensus decided this project should be completed before the ground freezes. Sunday, November 12th, 2023 is the suggested date for this work party. Meet at the Fremont Library parking lot at 11AM. Rich will bring a wheel barrow for transport of sand to the dug holes for the posts. Participants are encouraged to bring a shovel, post-hole digger, pry-bars, etc.
2. Wood Chips - More spreading and where? We agreed that this was a spring project. Next spring 2024 we will schedule a work party like the last one and we will put down more mulch on the Depot Trail, which is located near the library and down the rail trail about ¼ mile.
3. Pikes Pass - Blazing/trail marking. It was agreed upon that this would be done next spring also. We will pick a day and do the blazing and trail cleanup then.
4. Town Forest Boundary-Line Markers - Forest branding signs/medallions. (Blanding's Turtle image). Some are likely to be mounted on metal posts or attached to trees along the property lines. Fremont Conservation Commission will supply guidance for sign installation.
6. Boundary blazes in Glen Oakes - (This Winter??) We discussed the painting of boundary blazes to be done in Glen Oakes Forest. This is a big project considering the large size of the property. Much of the work must be done in winter after the ground freezes. A significant portion of the boundary lines are in wet or swampy habitat.
7. Repair bullet holes: Meetinghouse Road kiosk. It was agreed that we would replace the plexiglass and the 2 back plywood pieces and reuse the old hardware. Sam and Rich went out and got the measurements and will give them to Bruce for fabrication once the materials have been purchased. Since this is a lightly viewed kiosk, there have been several vandalism problems with it in the past. It was agreed to repair it again this time, but if anything happens to it in the future, another type of kiosk might be installed there.

8. Fall and/or winter hikes schedule: Sam Harris suggested a late Fall hike on Sunday, 12/3/23 at the SELT Spruce Swamp Conservation Area, located on Route 125 in Brentwood. We are going to walk the B-52 crash site trail (only a few remnants remain from the crash). A weather/snow day is planned for the following Sunday, 12/10/2023. The meet-up time is 11 AM at the SELT Kiosk parking area off Route 125, just north of the old Bessie's Diner.

We are planning to drop a couple vehicles at the North Road entrance to the Rockingham Rail Trail for those hikers not choosing to hike the full round-trip back to the SELT parking area. The round trip hike is estimated at just over 2 hours.