

REC Steering Committee Minutes for 2017 10 17

Members present: Cece Rudolph, John Rudolph, Pat & Jerry Stoltz, Dev Quandt, Mary Wagner, Linda Wagner, Ann McManus, Fr. Nate Kuhn, Stephanie Loderbauer, Steve Schmidt

Guests present: Matthew Beck, Doug Beck, Patrick Hollett

Changes to minutes in blue

Tasks to be completed in yellow

Dev Quandt led the opening prayer.

Old Business

1. Previous meeting minutes approved (motion - Dev; second-Cece)
 - a. Steve reminded everyone that they could access minutes on the REC page at www.snapshotscience.org.
2. Don Rudolph Memorial project update – Dev Quandt
 - a. Don's Delight Memorial Trail guide will be emailed to the committee. Please review and send comments to Dev by October 31st.
 - b. The trail marks spots that hold significance to the Rudolph family heritage, specifically some of Don's favorite spots.
 - c. Signs are in the ground. The trail guide directs hikers in a clockwise direction. The previous wood posts are ordered counter clock-wise.
 - d. Guides will be single sheets, laminated, and kept in the mailbox on the first sign near the shelter. The guides will ask users to return them to the box. Extras will be kept in one of the shelter storage rooms. Electronic copies will be made available to those who want a copy.
3. Eagle Scout trail project update – Matthew Beck
 - a. See previous minutes for more details.
 - b. Welters will deliver wood chips approximately November 3rd. The project will take place the weekend following delivery.
 - c. Matthew will seek about 30 volunteers to spread about 160 cubic yards of chips on the trail. Chips will be spread about 4 feet wide by 3 inches deep.
 - d. Volunteers may need to complete a Diocesan volunteer release/waiver. Ann McManus will look into this requirement.
 - e. The Grotto idea will not be an official part of this project. However, if the statue is purchased and someone builds a small shelter for it, Matthew would be happy to place it or help out.
 - f. Following the meeting, Linda and Mary Wagner decided to move forward with the statue and grotto idea. They will contact Mike Martin with some statue options. Paul Wagner (Linda) has agreed to build a small shelter for the statue.
4. Deer Fence Removal
 - a. Wes & Steve disassembled the fence and brought most of the materials back to store in the shelter.
 - b. There are still a few posts and rolls of snow fencing which need to be brought back from the field.

New Business

1. Current Use Update –

- a. NCMS CC out this week; NCHS CC plans in the works.
 - b. Steve emptied & cleaned composting toilet, scrubbed lower 3rd of ramp, and cleaned out gutters in September.
 - c. Stephanie Loderbauer reminded Steve about the NCEES-St. Michael preschool outing this past summer.
2. Property survey by REI
- a. Thanks for Mike Martin for seeking a property survey. REI will stake the property borders/corners with metal pipes.
 - b. This will set clear boundaries for hunting and also so neighbors know where their own property line ends.
3. Deer management plan & Auction hunt – Mike Martin, Fr. Kuhn, and Steve
- a. Propose a subcommittee to write the hunting rules for the REC. We cannot do this effectively in one regular meeting. Dev and Fr. Kuhn expressed interest in being on the committee. Steve will work with them to finalize a plan for committee approval.
 - b. Auction
 - i. NCS plans to auction a deer hunt guided by Fr.Kuhn. The Diocesan lawyers have approved it and we are waiting for the insurance for final approval. (This was not mentioned at the meeting.)
 - ii. Steve emailed Sarah Keene, director of NCS Advancement and asked to get a copy of the Auction description for our review. He will forward that to the committee when we receive it.
 - iii. Father Kuhn said his understanding is that it would be a one day hunt. He also said he might grill a meal for the auction winner.
 - c. Canvassing the neighbors.
 - i. We need to let the neighbors know that some limited hunting will take place at the REC. This should happen prior to hunting this year.
 - ii. We will need to go door to door to greet neighbors & deliver the flyer.
 - iii. Steve will develop a flyer & permit for hunter vehicles. Following the meeting, Mary Wagner offered to develop the hunting permit for vehicles.
 - d. REC hunting Regs
 - i. State and local regs apply, ie. Tagging, etc.
 - ii. The committee discussed various parts of the Deer Management Plan (Draft) which was emailed to the committee.
 1. Mary Wagner asked about a quota since she thought neighbors will ask. Steve shared that he thought that we would not make a dent in the population, even if we harvested 10, but a number would be a good idea.
 2. Steve shared that DNR biologist Brandon Stefanski said that any hunting would put some pressure on the deer and help the forest. However, he said that harvesting does would be ideal. We briefly discussed doe versus buck harvest and several members agreed that doe only or a specific limit on buck harvests should be agreed upon.

3. Stand types and locations were discussed. Steve pointed out that if we provide stands, NCS has more liability since we have to ensure their safe use. John Rudolph suggested that we limit hunting stand location to specific sites in order to protect the trees, especially if climbing stands are used. The committee thought this was a good idea.
- e. Hunters would include NCS Staff, immediate family, Rudolph family members, and Auction winners.

4. Buckthorn proposal – Steve Schmidt met with DNR Wildlife Biologist Brandon Stefanski at the REC on September 29th. Invasive species were the biggest concern. He suggested Garlon 4 be used to chemically treat the buckthorn in large overgrown areas. We should have it cut to below knee levels and then when it resprouts, spray the leaves. Wes Ebert said that based on his experience at Monk Gardens, if we cut in July or August it will re-sprout in time to spray for fall. In order to cut large areas, we will need a brush hog. If anyone knows of one we could use, please contact Steve. This is a device that looks like a weed trimmer with a metal disk blade, rather than line cutter. Steve will research Garlon 4 with the help of Brandon.

Carolina sedge is also rampant and is making regeneration of native trees an issue. We could treat this in some areas. We should research this a bit more.

He thought we should encourage only doe hunting, if we are serious about having the biggest impact on the health of the forest. Any hunting or other activity will keep deer moving and make it less desirable for them to browse.

Steve and Dev demonstrated the difference between poplar and buckthorn twigs.

Steve and Patrick Hollett may develop a buckthorn treatment experiment for the NCHS CC.

5. Chores
 - a. Prior to the meeting, Steve cleaned some more of the ramp
 - b. Dev and Steve cut and treated some of the seed producing buckthorn along the trail in the clear cut. Many of these were cut last year to open up the trail, but had re-sprouted.
6. The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 4:30.
7. Brief social with treats from Cece Rudolph. Thanks!
8. Dev Quandt led a hike to show the new trail signs.
9. Next meetings
 - a. Winter meeting to evaluate 2017 hunt and further develop deer management plan.
 - b. Late Spring 2018 – regular spring meeting.