

## AGENDA

### Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2017

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: April 11, 2017.

#### Reports

- CT Woodlands Trails Day 2017: Sat June 3, 3-5 PM (rain date Sun June 4, same time [3-5 PM]). We will be a featured trail! Publicity: thanks to Audrey and Lisa for designing the poster/flyer and the kids' woodland sighting checklist. Visit REI store to ask for prizes/goodies. See Leader Letter for other publicity ideas. Rich Whitehead, member of Tree Advisory and Tree Alliance; and Adam Barbera, another arborist who volunteered, will help with Trails Day and will also help identify trees when we have \$ for identification tags. Members of the Arts Commission also want to participate. Background: Connecticut Forest & Park Assn. has dozens of "Trails Day" events all over the state <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend/events-2017> Here is the listing for our Norwalk/Oak Hills Park event <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend/events-2017/norwalk-nature-walk-record-3735>
- Sean Notley, Eagle Scout candidate service project, is pending scoutmaster approval. Sean and his troop will set a date ASAP to do the trail renovation. Thanks to OHPA for purchasing trailblazer markers from Voss Signs, which the Eagle Scout project will install along the trail. We need to build one stone cairn ahead of time and be prepared to build a second one on June 3.
- Elsa participated in Earth Day-related cleanup event Saturday 4/22.
- Contractor Hoffman Landscapes has nearly completed work on the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn: lawns, meadows, and other plants. Irrigation, walkways, and sod are in. Solar-powered pump for fountain is promised.
- Work w/Hoffman Landscapes on design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs.
- Oak Hills Park Authority members said they personally would donate toward cost of a kiosk. Here is the one at Farm Creek as an example:



- Trail map. We will work with Oak Hills Park website "Nature" section, in conjunction with previous work by Audrey Cozzarin and possible new work by Boy Scout Sean Notley.
- We need to update Oak Hills Park website updated description of nature trail and garden areas. See

<http://www.oaknillsgc.com/rest/nature-advisory-committee> and  
<http://www.oaknillsgc.com/rest/oak-niis-park-walking-trail-map>

- Plant Identification tags/signs and raising money for them. Clarification of our status from Corporation Counsel.
- McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map and survey need review (help from Alexis Cherichetti?) to provide exact coordinates of boundaries between nature areas & golf areas.
- Educational outreach, emphasis on appreciating and protecting nature. Danielle Vinci with the Norwalk Housing Authority youth program wants to bring kids to walk the trail.
- Art project & event ideas with Norwalk Arts Commission, emphasis on protecting nature. Arts Commission happy to participate with us in the June 3 Trails Day event.

### **Goals of the committee**

- Development of the designated Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas for enjoyment by the general public. See Contractor report above.
- Plaques to identify trees, wildlife. See Plant Identification item above.
- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved. See McNeil Design Collaborative report above.
- More securely protecting those areas as permanent open space.
- Field trips and educational opportunities for young people.
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park Discussion of how to attain them.
- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame

### **Old Business**

- Update: Norwalk Tree Advisory members support asking Mayor Rilling to walk Oak Hills Park trail again on one of the Saturday morning “Walk With Us” walks. Lisa and Elsa walked the trail with Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the “Become a NorWALKER” program in fall 2015. Encourage Health Dept. to list Oak Hills Park trail as a hiking (as opposed to walking) trail.
- Privately funded benches by arborist Larry Brown, and/or “not-so-rustic bench” idea by Ilana L. Appleby, Rustic Design Elements (tabled)
- Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices (tabled)
- Letter of intent to mayor and Common Council committee chair re “old leaf dump” and “niblick” parcels, approved unanimously as “park land” by full Common Council Oct 13 (tabled)

### **New Business**

**Next meeting date:** Scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

### **Adjournment**