

AGENDA

Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

Meeting Tuesday, August 14, 2018

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: July 10, 2018.

Goals of the committee: Review of accomplishments & future priorities

- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved; more securely protecting those areas as permanent open space. *Elsa has discussed with Jim Schell and Anthony Carrano.*
- Find funding or partners to implement the planting plans for the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas, especially increasing native plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat. Progress of forming 501(c)3 organization. *See 501(c)3 below.*
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives). *Elsa has discussed with Anthony Carrano. Photos of trail stairs on steep areas.*
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife.
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.

Birdwatching walk led by Charlie Taney scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 8 - 9:30 AM.

Thanks to Lisa Meserole for informing us of the walk in Southport led by "forager and functional herbalist" Hayden Stebbins on Sunday, July 29, 11:30 am, organized by the Pequot Library.

<http://www.pequotlibrary.org/index.php/calendar-events/icalrepeat.detail/2018/07/29/19261/-/southport-nature-walk>

Thanks also to Lisa for participating in the Norwalk River Valley Trail volunteer day organized by Wilton Pollinator Pathway group.

On various dates in August CT Forest & Parks has walks focusing on monarch butterflies, foraging, mushroom identification, rodents & small mammals. We might approach them to get an expert on a given topic.

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) <events@ctwoodlands.org>

CFPA Happenings -- August 2018

wslo@gmail.com

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CFPA Events

Aug 5	1 pm to 3 pm	Discover Goodwin Forest Youth Series: Pollinators	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 11	10 am to 11:30 am	Monarch Butterflies	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 11	1 pm to 3 pm	Discover Highlawn Forest Youth Series: Honey Bees and Other Pollinators	Highlawn Forest, Middlefield
Aug 14	10 am to 12 pm	August Senior Walk at CFPA	Highlawn Forest, Middlefield
Aug 15	10 am to 12:30 pm	Senior Walk	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 16	12 pm to 2:30 pm	Senior Walk	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 18	10 am to 12:30 pm	Mushroom Identification with the 3 Foragers	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 25	10 am to 1 pm	Long Distance Guided Hike	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 25	10 am to 11:30 am	Gardener's Roundtable	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Aug 25	12 pm to 1:30 pm	Rodents and Small Mammals	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton

A number of CFPA events are outdoors so please check the [Events Calendar](#) for updates and changes. Events are also added frequently so look for new events throughout the year.

- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame: *separate email list for nature & restaurant*
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park.

Reports

- Progress on creating a 501(c)3 now that Corporation Counsel has clarified our status as a government entity. *Elsa and Mark opened interest-bearing checking account at Norwalk Savings.*
- Events: *Discuss plans for possible summer and fall events.* See other organizations, e.g. Norwalk Land Trust, CT Forest & Park Assn., Norwalk River Valley Trail.
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status: *Jim Schell is aware of need for a trash receptacle.*
- 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 updated by Audrey Cozzarin.
- We need to update Oak Hills Park website updated description of nature trail and garden areas. See <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/nature-advisory-committe> and <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/oak-hills-park-walking-trail-map>
- Plant Identification tags/signs and raising money for them. *Pine Island Cemetery has informative signs of the type we might want.*
- 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.

Old Business

- *On 8/9/18 Elsa walked with Kaitlyn Latham and Barbara McCabe from the Health Dept. to list the Oak Hills Park Great Lawn as a good place to walk. Status of the woodlands trail for hiking (as opposed to walking) with Health Dept. pending.*
- *Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices.*
- Privately funded benches by arborist Larry Brown, and/or “not-so-rustic bench” idea by Ilana L. Appleby, Rustic Design Elements (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, 2015 (tabled)

New Business

Grant possibilities.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 11, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Adjournment