

Temple Conservation Commission
Monday, September 2, 2019
Town Forest Walk – 9AM
Minutes

Attending: Sean Radcliffe, Honey Hastings, Adie Krulis, Scott Hecker, Lincoln Geiger, Carol Mamczak, Guest Forester: Eric Foley, Forestry student: Ethan Radcliffe, and two guests

Former ConCom member, Eric Foley, led the group on a trail walk through the North Road property, both the Lone Pine Trail and the Swamp Trail.

We were asked to consider the goals we might develop. These usually consist of some or all of the following: production, recreation, wildlife, education. We generally agreed that recreation should include hiking, snowshoeing and horses, but not ATVs. Educational goals can be developed and several ideas were mentioned as possibilities. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Eric pointed out positive features and issues to correct such as the signage and developing trail damage due to horse traffic. He explained the Allegheny ant mounds, the risk of Emerald Ash Borer to the ash trees, the historical trash, evidence of prior logging, the varied ecosystems with the dominant tree species in each, the black gum trees, and evidence of beech bark disease in its varying stages. We looked at healthy trees, trees that have rapidly declined, wet areas, dry areas, low ground and high ground. He explained what might need to change in the landing area should we decide to harvest some trees. We discussed a few methods used for marking trails.

Eric was assisted by Scott Hecker who located, ID'd and explained many species of mushrooms and fungi. Scott photographed the flora extensively and spoke enthusiastically about the educational possibilities of this land.

We considered trail rerouting to put people and horses on drier land, then blocking the currently mucky, wet parts of the trail. We also saw evidence of an alternate trail that had been marked by local residents and appears to provide a loop back to the parking area without walking on the road. We will consider this change as well.

We appreciated the time taken and patience shown by Eric as all members and guests had a chance to ask questions and share observations. We gained a better appreciation for the Town Forest and left with many ideas to discuss at a future meeting.

We concluded the meeting shortly after 11AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak, ConCom alternate