Braintree Conservation Commission

Minutes, 26 Feb. 2025, 6 pm, Town Offices

Present: Paul Shriver, Marlys Eddy, Gina Logan

No members of the public were present.

Minutes of January meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Dark Sky project: deferred to later in the Spring

EAB/ Ash tree issues: see below

New Business:

The Commission members present were joined by Christian Pelletier from the “Swim Smart” Program. They are looking for new (and existing) swimming holes/ working to developing swimming sites for people to recreate safely:

They do water sampling (e. coli, etc.) and monitoring where people actually swim/ Hoping to be able to fundraise for these recreational sites with spreading of good data

VT Fish & Wildlife owns some land by Riford Brook. We can partner with them to develop that site (trail, parking, signage, etc.) so that people will want to use the swimming hole and be able to feel safe doing so. Christian mentioned sustainable development using natural materials (stone, wood chips, etc.). He will talk with F&W about looping a trail and will come back to us with designs for the project. We can brainstorm and then fundraise, hoping to have something ready by Spring 2026. There are several folks in Braintree who do stonework and perhaps we can involve them as well. We can also partner with the Elementary School and others (road crew?) and seek donations of materials for signs, kiosk, picnic table, etc.; stones and woodchips also. Fishing is also a potential use at the site, though swimming is the primary use being discussed/ planned.

Ash trees: we will apply for any grants for which Braintree is eligible. Paul will confer with Joanne Garton and get back to us with details.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be in March. We will likely need to meet earlier than the fourth Wednesday, as the grant application is due by 3/28. Paul will come back with dates after he sounds out Joanne.

Gina will bring her iPad to the planning meeting for the grant.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Logan