

**Springfield Conservation Committee (SCC) Meeting.
Minutes for May 17, 2025 Meeting.
Smiley Manse, 485 Cherry Hill, Springfield.**

Members Present: Chuck Gregory, Heidi Trimbach, Hallie Whitcomb, Nate Ellis, Geetu Melwani

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 am, and with five of the seven members present, we had a quorum. The meeting was led by Geetu, with Chuck taking minutes.

Updates

Hospital Pilot Project: Chuck reported that the Trex bench will arrive in about two weeks. Nate agreed to store the bench at Smiley Manse till we install it at the Hospital. Chuck said he would install the footings. Chuck will be scheduling another meeting with Rob Prohaska next week. Items to discuss include: No-Mow May/June; placement of the bench and of a future plaque.

The team discussed what types of plants we should add to the Hospital pilot project. Wildflowers seeds have been added, but some shrubs would also make a good addition there, for example sumac. Heidi will create a list of possible candidate plants that would work best on that hillside. The intent is for Chuck to share the list with Rob for discussion and approval.

The team also discussed the hospital "front" hill-side areas (across from the hospital entrance), it was observed that the front hill areas are so steep that they have to be "mowed" with weed-whackers rather than with mowers. We'll need to include deferring of weed-whacking in addition to mowing, when encouraging No-mow months.

Since these "front" hills are not part of the Pilot project, Chuck will not discuss these with Rob when they meet. Hallie thinks a presentation to the hospital board is the best course. She will arrange for a presentation. The goal is to convince the board to not mow for a couple of months to find out what wildflowers are currently there. Heidi suggested one of us being the contact person for the long-term, and perhaps expand where we work section by section. Collaboration is necessary. Necessary to assess what plants are there by not mowing.

Schools Project: Heidi updated the committee that the project of recruiting high school volunteers to work on projects around the town suffered from poor timing last year. We need to plan better for the next year by ensuring that we provide the opportunity to volunteer well in advance of students' deadline of earning community service credits for graduation.

Park Street Landscaping project: Heidi has been reviewing the plan for the BRIC landscaping project. Heidi and Hallie will meet this coming week to review the landscaping plan and develop recommendations for plants.

VFW Landscaping project: We are not currently working with the VFW on their landscaping work. Hallie will approach Kelly Stettner on working with VFW. Geetu suggested we have Kelly meet with the SCC before approaching the VFW..

Miscellaneous Updates

1. Nate provided copies of the *British pollinators* magazine for the team to review.
2. Heidi and Geetu attended via Zoom the DRB's latest meeting - on permits submitted for a timber processing facility proposed for the end of Breezy Hill and Pleasant Valley Road. The committee's concern was on the issue of (a) lack of good drainage, and the stripping of steep hills. During the meeting, we learned that the Breezy Hill proposal was withdrawn; and a lot of concerns were raised by the DRB regarding the Pleasant Valley project. As the owner of the property was appraised that he would be responsible to meet considerable requirements, it is likely that the Pleasant Valley project will be abandoned as well.
3. The committee discussed the need to recruit another member for the committee. Nate moved that the committee draft a press release to invite people to apply. The motion was seconded by Chuck, and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on the first Saturday of June - in 2 weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.