|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A stamp with a tree and text  Description automatically generated with low confidence | **TOWN OF MILLIS** |  |
| OAK GROVE FARM COMMISSION900 Main Street • Millis, MA 02054 |  |

Oak Grove Farm Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2024

In attendance: John McAvoy, Sue McAvoy, Rob Elbery, Stephen MacInnes, Dave Werner, and Kathi Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

* Dave made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2023, meeting with edits. Rob seconded. All in favor.
* Rob cut the trees that fell on the trails from the December 18th, 2023, wind storm. He also removed a tree that the town pushed off Ridge Street near the back gate.
* Steve updated the Commission on the sink hole behind the farmhouse. He spoke with Jim McKay, DPW Director and John McVeigh, Board of Health Director to determine if the sink hole is an abandoned septic tank. There are no records at the town hall. We have asked Nate Maltinsky, Chair of the Historical Commission, to try and find more information. More discussion at the next meeting.
* Discussion about the Fiscal Year 25 budget. What expenses do we have? Should we request level funding or can we ask for an increase to cover costs such as the increase in the water bills. Sue has a spreadsheet with all expenses for the Committee to review. John will work on the budget documents that the Finance Committee will need.
* John will forward the GLM bill and the Amazon bill for the battery-operated hedge trimmer and power pruning shears to Camille to be paid out of the CPC monies for trail improvements.
* Discussion about a possible meeting with the CPC to discuss requesting additional funds to complete the trail improvements.
* CJW Landscaping spent 4 days working on the trails at OGF. Two days were spent on the Ridge Street Trail to revise work previously completed that needed to address continuing issues of drainage and water flooding the trail. A great deal of work was completed with excavation, new drainage piping and riprap stone, new gravel and relaying the boardwalks on the repairs. Work looks great and held up under the recent heavy rainstorm. Work was also completed along Island Road trail and in the middle field to address issues there as well.
* The only area for the trail renovation project left for work to begin is the trails running parallel to Orchard Street. Some discussion on the Stumpy’s Tree walk through for deadfall clean up along these trails.
* There are several fallen trees amongst the wooded areas and underbrush that could be trimmed back from the trail. Most likely a dingo would be used to bring the wood out to a chipper in the field. Stumpy’s Tree will provide us with an estimate.
* There is an area on the Orchard Street trail that is very wet with poor drainage. While there is a current plan in place to use boardwalks placed on plastic timbers, there are questions about whether this plan is the best option. Three options were discussed:
1. Keep to the current plan – making new boardwalks.
2. Is there a way to change the path of the trail to the left if coming from Exchange Street towards the farmhouse field? This may avoid the wet area, but it would need to be cleared of thick underbrush.
3. Put a thick layer riprap stone, followed by a thick layer of gravel total thickness is 10 inches. There would be no boardwalks but widening the trail to 5 feet. The length of this area is about 130 feet.

After discussion it was decided, Dave will go to the next Con Comm meeting to share the 3 options with them and get their feedback on if changes using these 3 options could be acceptable to them.

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Rob seconded. All in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Smith