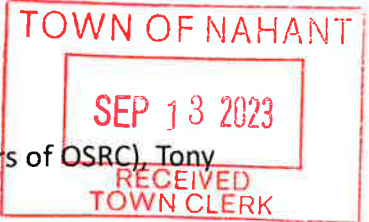


Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting

July 18, 2023 3:00-4:30 PM

Present at Town Hall: Trish Aldrich chair, Nancy Cantelmo recorder (members of OSRC), Tony Barletta, Zach Taylor and Karen Falat.

Present on Zoom: Paula Devereaux, Rebecca Durgin (members of OSRC), Vi Patek, Myles Connor presenter from Parterre Ecological. This meeting was recorded and available for viewing at a later date.



Meeting was called to order by Trish, to hear the presentation of the Planting Plan for Fort Ruckman area of Bailey's Hill by Myles Connor, which had been prepared with CPA and Nahant SWIM funds and circulated among most of the people present.

Myles had visited the area in the past, submitted a proposal for restoration of this area written January, 2022 and written the 22 page planting plan which is the topic of the meeting today.

Myles commended the work of Zach and the DPW on preparing, stabilizing and maintaining the East Slope of the Fort Ruckman area. He showed pictures of the area from last winter, with the cleared land, but not with the regrowth of the grasses on the slope and lowest area nearest to the water. Trish supplied those to him for an update.

The plan suggests specific native plants for the various sections of this area, as outlined in the written plan. Planting was recommended for the fall, for best results. Myles explained why certain plants were chosen for the various sections from the bottom to the top of the slope, under the battery. Native shrubs were grouped in each area, and native plant grass mix would be added later. A sassafras tree was chosen on the level elevated area, as a shade tree, 40 or 50 ' tall when fully grown, to provide an area for sitting.

Herbaceous plants were suggested for the slope area, planted in the grass.

Specific planting instructions were described for the best results. Myles then outlined the various methods for treating various invasives, as well as a time line for all planting and invasive treatment.

Zach explained that the cost of the project as funded by the 2024 CPA grants at the last town meeting falls within procurement guidelines that require bid proposals be sent to 3 other companies. Zach will prepare the proposals necessary and further speak with Myles next week. We hope to begin the purchasing and planting work in the fall.

Vi asked questions about rabbits eating certain plants, including sweet fern, and about black swallowwort in our town. Karen Falat, long involved in BH plants nd management, had questions about the significant removal of invasives and much understory on the south hill of the BH complex, and long term plans for the entire area.

Trish will follow up with DPW and Town Administrator about our funding and future plans for the Fort Ruckman replanting and invasive removal.

Submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk after approval by the Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting on August 14, 2023.