

Minutes of the 3/1/23 Meeting
Environmental Committee
Town of Walden

Catherine Colby called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The attendees of the meeting were Jane Harper, Diane Ryder, Mary Aho, Hannah Lynch, Cierra Paulson, Peter Guild, Caroline Guild, Linda Collins and Larry Roberts.

The minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Catherine reported that the salt shed at Bachman continues to be a problem and that she and Mariah have noted what is lacking in the Hamilton County response and added them into a further response. The wall must be built higher and all contaminated dirt removed and replaced with topsoil. There should be a gate and gutters. Hannah Lynch has done another round of salinity testing and entered all of the site and salinity data into a CAD file to be shared with the committee and Walden. She said salt levels are extremely toxic and that the area affected is growing but only superficially. She will monitor salinity monthly.

Diane Ryder reported that she is still awaiting a response from Bee City. She provided the Walden Town Council with information on Bee City at the February Town meeting. Their response was positive. She also said that she has spoken with Deane Sprague, a retired teacher from Nolan, to help identify a liason for Bee City from Nolan.

Committee members gave a quick overview of Rock the Ridge (not an official program of Walden or the Environmental Committee) for new attendees. Mary Aho noted that she had an observation hive that she could loan to RTR.

The committee voted unanimously to have No Mow Month signs instead of No Mow May because of our zone and early flowering dates. Catherine is working on a design with high resolution and Karen Stone provided the best prices for printing. Because the Bee City program has not yet been officially adopted by Walden, Catherine and Mary Aho will front the signs for this year and families who wish to have a sign will be able to purchase them at cost. Diane would like to distribute these at Pruetts.

Larry Roberts said that a former student was the original person to install the “Drains to River” signs around Walden. He is going to find out where they were installed, as these will be replacements and will not need new approval. As of

now, we know that in the past there was one at Mabbitt Springs, one on Lyness at a low spot/culvert that leads to Mabbitt Springs, and there was one at the intersection of Devlan Forest and Lyness, leading to Fairmount Branch.

Suggested placement and location of the following signs was voted on and unanimously approved:

- 2 (one each direction) at Fairmount Creek.
- 2 more at Mabbitt Springs to cover the two additional entrances to the trails
- 1 at Falling Water
- possibly at Wilson, Key Hulse and Lake if there is flowing water

Cierra Paulson reported that the W Road planting on 2/26 was difficult and muddy because of recent and incoming rain. Things that we all planted in October do seem to have made it through the cold snap and there are signs of rudbeckia and other growth. Next time we are able to work there we need to do more erosion stabilization, and bring plant labels, more native plants, and gear to eradicate invasives permanently. Diane said that she had a label maker.

The site for procuring rain barrels from the city of Chattanooga was noted www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/chattanooga.

We voted to NOT have Committee meetings in July and January.

Linda is doing initial reads of some Native Plant and Tree Ordinances.

The meeting ended at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Colby

Next meeting Wednesday, April 5th, 5:30 WRES