

Minutes from Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve meeting on 5.9.17

Attendees: Floyd Bagwell, Jr., Stephen Bayer, Beth Bye, Gene Ellis, Terrell Green, Eric Hammerling, Robin Kriesberg, David Mann, Chris Norwood, Lewis Rawles, Christopher Shepard.

The group had a robust discussion about 4 events proposed for this year:

CT Trails Day: there will be a CT Trails Day walk on **Saturday, June 3rd at 1:30 p.m.** led by Kevin Gough and Christopher Shepard as a partnership event between the Wintonbury Land Trust and Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve. Kevin G. has reached out to bird expert, Zellene Sandler, to see if she can attend and add her expertise on bobolinks and other likely avian visitors.

Follow-up items:

- Eric H. will distribute a first draft of text for a brochure about the Auerfarm State Park Scenic Reserve and the Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve with the goal of having something to hand-out to participants on June 3rd. Christopher S. offered assistance with design and printing of brochure.
- Eric H. will ask DEEP about the possibility of a follow-up project at the Scenic Reserve after Trails Day where the Boy Scouts could build and install bird houses.

Opening Reception/Launch of Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve: the group discussed an official launch of the Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve on **Thursday, September 14th** at the 4-H Education Center and the Scenic Reserve. Beth B. reserved the 4-H Education Center from 4-9 p.m. to accommodate the event, and undoubtedly, there will be additional planning to be done.

Follow-up items (so far):

- Floyd B., Jr. offered to speak with the Bloomfield High School jazz program to see if a Jazz trio might be available to play at the event.

Education Program for Public on Apples/Apple Pruning: there was a good discussion about the shared apple orchard legacy of the Scenic Reserve and 4-H Education Center. An educational event featuring UConn Extension and perhaps Master Gardeners would be a good way to highlight this legacy and explore management opportunities/challenges ahead. Coincidentally, I was just invited to a [Knox, Inc. event via Facebook](#) that might give us some ideas.

Follow-up items (so far):

- Beth B. and Robin K. offered to do some additional research and recommend when this event could take place in the fall. Beth B. offered to reach out to UConn.

Plein Air Painting/Kite-flying Event: there was a brief discussion about another fall event that pairs art and the outdoors. This might be a partnership event with the [Connecticut Plein Art Painters Society](#).

Follow-up items (so far):

- Christopher S. offered to do some additional research and follow-up with the Friends of Heublein Tower to see how they organized their plein air painting event at Talcott Mountain SP.

The discussion of events was followed by a short discussion on **Infrastructure Priorities** for Auerfarm State Park Scenic Reserve. Great appreciation was expressed that 1) the porch on the white apple barn was removed by CT DEEP, and 2) there is now an online presence on the DEEP website for the Scenic Reserve.

Follow-up items (so far):

- Eric H. offered to follow-up with Tom Tyler at DEEP to check on progress of removing the residential buildings.
- Eric H. offered to pass along the concern expressed by Beth B. about the potential for road drainage from the Scenic Reserve negatively impacting the new road surfacing work that will take place on Auer Farm Road. Beth B. shared the contact information for a road engineer at NRCS who may be able to provide free technical assistance.

The group then discussed the **next steps for the Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve (FASR)** as an organization. If FASR is going to be successful and sustainable (like the Friends of Goodwin Forest which CFPA also hosts as a fiscal sponsor), there is a need for some non-CFPA staff leadership for the group. Ideally, there would be local volunteers willing to make a 6 month – 1 year commitment to serve in the following roles:

President/Chair (develops meeting agendas, schedules and chairs meetings, serves as the “face of the group” to the community, liaison with CFPA to ensure fiscal sponsorship agreement is working);

Vice-President/Vice-chair (performs President roles when President is unavailable)

Secretary (takes notes and types-up minutes in a timely fashion); and

Treasurer (reports on revenues, grants, and expenses). CFPA is willing to play this role as the fiscal sponsor for FASR.

Follow-up items (so far):

- Eric H. was encouraged to put out the call to the group to see which 3 individual volunteers might be willing to make a 6 month – 1 year commitment in these roles to get the ball rolling for FASR. Ideally, these three individuals would make their willingness to serve known before CT Trails Day, but certainly well in advance of the September 14th event.