



MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 11, 2019

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present:

John Ernst, Chair, Dan Wilt, Art Lussi, Robert Stegemann (DEC), and Brad Austin (ESD)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Dr. Chad Dawson, Lynne Mahoney (DOS), William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Christopher Cooper, Counsel, Keith McKeever, Aaron Ziemann, Shaun LaLonde, Mary O'Dell, and Annemarie Peer

Approval of the June 2019 Draft Minutes

The June draft minutes were approved on a motion by Dan Wilt and seconded by Art Lussi.

RASS Program Report (Kathy Regan)

Ms. Regan began by reporting that the RASS staff are extremely busy in the field this summer. She also reminded the Board that it is New York State Invasive Species Awareness week. She also mentioned that The Nature Conservancy was awarded a five-year contract to administer the Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (aka PRISM). Ms. Regan informed the Board that Brendan Quirion will be leaving the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) to further his education.

Ms. Regan told the Board that she had attended an Invasive Species Counsel meeting last month and that she will be attending a day-long interagency workshop on climate adaptation and resiliency on July 16.

Improving Habitat for Forest Birds: Landscape and Stand-level

Recommendations (Suzanne Treyger, Forest Program Manager, Audubon New York, Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Ms. Treyger began with an overview of the National Audubon Society, stating that there are 23 state programs, with nearly 500 local chapters. Audubon is working on land conservation strategies and priority forest areas.

She briefed the Board on quality habitat for forest birds emphasizing that diversity is key. She reviewed some landscape-level habitat conditions and stand-level habitat conditions. Ms. Treyger discussed vertical structural diversity, such as layering of vegetation and multiple canopies.

Ms. Treyger continued by discussing plant species diversity, native and non-invasives that provide the birds with a variety of food sources. She also went over the importance of trees and the different needs bird species have at various stages of their lives.

Ms. Treyger discussed uneven-aged management, such as removing single or small groups of trees, and even-aged management, such as clearing all or nearly all trees in an area. Even-aged management enables light to reach the forest floor, promoting regeneration and a young forest.

Ms. Treyger finished her presentation by briefly reviewing a new Audubon program called Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers. Goals of this program include improving habitat for target birds, engaging family forest owners through outreach and by providing resources, as well as a pilot forester training program.

After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Treyger received a certificate of appreciation from Presiding Member Austin, Mr. Ernst, Ms. Regan, and Ms. Martino

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

