

Friends of Canonchet Farm
Discussion Points
Annual Meeting – May 28, 2009
Continued at a Special Meeting on June 25, 2009

*Mission Statement: Friends of Canonchet Farm's mission is to improve, manage
and preserve Canonchet Farm in partnership with the public
for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

The Friends of Canonchet Farm (FOCF) is in agreement with many of the recommendations in the Canonchet Farm Master Plan Review Committee (CFMPRC) report. However, there are some areas of significant difference and others that need clarification.

Preservation

CFMPRC Report's Mission Statement does not focus on conservation and preservation of the Canonchet Farm property.

FOCF Mission Statement includes preservation for present and future generations.

Clearing

CFMPRC recommends clearing in Area B to enlarge the upper meadow to the stone walls to the north.

FOCF proposes to selectively THIN the lower story of the forest of undesirable invasives and other species, weeds, etc.

Visitors Center

CFMPRC proposes the construction of a new visitors center.

FOCF believes that a visitors center should use existing facilities at the South County Museum, or the Narragansett Community Center. No new buildings are to be constructed.

Parking

CFMPRC designates Area B as a parking area for visitors to the Canonchet Farm and the South County Museum.

FOCF states that there should be no parking of any kind in Area B. There should be no beach parking on the property. Parking for Canonchet Farm visitors should be in the Area A gravel parking lot at the Anne Hoxsie Lane entrance.

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Bike Path

CFMPRC proposes construction of a bike path on a dedicated surface connecting the planned terminus of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path at Mumford Road with access to the South County Museum and the Town Beach through the property.

FOCF has serious concerns about construction of a bike path through Canonchet Farm. However, we cannot comment at this time, as we have insufficient information about the bike path and need answers about routing, usage, environmental impact, safety, accessibility and visibility. We plan to be active in the planning process.

Large Events

CFMPRC says that hosting large events is an appropriate activity for Area B (High and Low Meadow), and proposes a management structure for permitting such events.

FOCF does not favor any large events. If there are any events, they should be consistent with and foster appreciation and protection of the natural environment, beauty and historical significance of the property. A member of the Friends of Canonchet Farm should be appointed to the management entity, if any, established for the park.

Through Traffic/Entrances

CFMPRC voted against vehicular traffic through Canonchet Farm connecting Strathmore Street and Anne Hoxsie Lane.

FOCF believes that in order to preserve the environment and protect the safety of visitors, no motorized vehicular traffic should be allowed in the park except at the entrance parking lots and except for emergency and maintenance vehicles.

We propose the following projects: Improve existing gates in appearance, strength, security, functionality and location in compliance with the Town of Narragansett safety requirements. Recognize that Anne Hoxsie Lane, Strathmore Street and Sprague Park entrances should provide access to the park with Anne Hoxsie Lane as the primary entrance and visitor parking facility for the park.

Inventory of Wildlife

CFMPRC does not mention an inventory of wildlife.

FOCF believes that in order to preserve the habitat an inventory of wildlife is essential.