



Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Town Farm

2 messages

OBrien, Kate <kate_obrien@fws.gov>

Thu, Sep 26, 2019 at 10:51 AM

To: Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Cc: Jeffrey Tash <jeffrey_tash@fws.gov>

Hi Maureen -

Thank you for inviting us to walk the wetland and buffer area at the Town Farm. We were certainly impressed by the native plants in that wetland and surrounding area, in particular the late blooming goldenrod and aster. These flowering plants offer high conservation values for migratory butterflies such as monarchs. This is not a common habitat in our area.

We observed Virginia rose, native willow, cattail in and around the wetland area. It was a wonderful habitat, which offers a lot to birds and pollinators. We would predict if the area is no longer mowed we would have a cattail community surrounded by grasses and flowers and medium sized native shrubs. It would add a nice diversity component to your field area and should be attractive to birds and birders alike.

On moving forward, the area will need to be monitored annually for invasive plants. The wetland and the buffer area looked to be over 95% high quality native plants, however scattered outside of that area, we observed a low frequency of non-native plants (multiflora rose and honeysuckle) and the area as a whole does have non-native plants in the landscape. Within the wetland area we found and pulled about 5 purple loosestrife plants near the roadside.

For information on mowing areas outside of the buffer see here:

<https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/MowingForMonarchs.pdf>

What is recommended for monarchs meshes well with grassland bird nesting as well. We recommend mowing every 1-2 years. If the Town did want to try to mow every other year we would suggest it start with a smaller area and see if they get too much woody growth. What is occurring now (annual mowing) looks to be producing a good result.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Kate

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Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Thu, Sep 26, 2019 at 1:36 PM

To: "OBrien, Kate" <kate_obrien@fws.gov>

Cc: Jeffrey Tash <jeffrey_tash@fws.gov>, Robert Malley <Robert.Malley@capeelizabeth.org>, Matt Sturgis <matthew.sturgis@capeelizabeth.org>

Bcc: Bruce V Moore <brucevmoore@gmail.com>, Emily Helliesen Day <emilyhelliesen@gmail.com>, Jim Tasse <jamestasse@mac.com>, Mitch Wacksman <mitch_wacksman@hotmail.com>, Phil Saucier <philsaucier@gmail.com>, Robert Petitt <rgpetitt@gmail.com>, Zach Matzkin <zmatzkin@mac.com>

Kate and Jeff,

Thank you very much for providing technical assistance in response to my request for advice on the best way to manage the Town Farm meadow that preserves its habitat value. I will be passing on your suggestions to the Conservation Committee and the Public Works Department. This approach closely follows what the town is currently doing. We are not proactively evaluating for selective invasive removal in the spring and I will try to incorporate that next year.

The town highly values environmental preservation and the ongoing relationship and technical assistance provided by UFWS has been invaluable.

Maureen

[Quoted text hidden]

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