Minutes

of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of FoNNR

held 9 October 2019 at the

Isleworth Horticultural Society Building, Northcote Avenue.

**Present:**

Vanessa Smith Committee member and Chair

Dean Griffiths Committee member/Project Lead Designer

Lyn Halstead Committee member

David Vroegindeweij Committee member

Colin Cooper South West London Environmental Network (SWLEN)

Rev. Richard Frank All Souls Church

Alan Smith Member: FoNNR

Adrienne Collins Member: FoNNR

Helen Meikle Resident

Anne Ottman TCA

Phil Lemon TCA

Amanda Dickinson Local resident (LB Hounslow)

Lyn Cordoray Local resident (LB Richmond upon Thames)

Stephen Lloyd Neighbourhood Watch St. Margarets

**Apologies:**

Andrew Miklenski Committee member

Hilary Thomson Member: FoNNR

Carolyn Bloore TCA

**Circulation of Minutes (date 30th October) :**

* All of the above
* Posted on FoNNR website

**1.0 Introduction:**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**2.0 Committee member elections:**

2.1 Colin Cooper kindly took the Chair to conduct the elections for this year.

2.2 As several committee members were re-elected last year as required by the Constitution. The position of Chair had to be re-elected this year, being the third year of the cycle. Also the position of Secretary had remained vacant since Hilary Thomson had stepped down.

2.3 Vanessa Smith re-elected as Chair.

2.4 Dean Griffiths volunteered to take on Vice Chair.

2.5 Adrienne Collins volunteered for the Secretary’s role.

2.6 All duly elected.

**3.0 Chair’s report for 2019:**

3.1 Tabled.

Report summary can be viewed on the FoNNR website.

**4.0 Project design and procurement update:**

4.1 Dean circulated plans of the nature reserve to recap on the approved design, and gave a brief summary explanation. It is proposed to landscape the whole of the site, the river will come in as an inlet. The site will be fully accessible, a Wildflower Meadow and planted areas for enhancing habitat along with dense screening will be planted. Work will also allow for helping with bank erosion. The ecological intent of this is to enhance the area for fish stock, birds and mammals.

4.2 Input received along the way from EA (Environment Agency) relative to river and statutory requirements, as well as ecological input and comment from such organisations as ZSL (Zoological Society of London).

4.3 Things are coming to the point of being released for tender.

4.4 Amanda Dickinson asked how the proposed inlet would affect the depth of the river. Dean explained that as the inlet will be tidal it will make no difference to the river depth.

4.5 All spoil will be re-used on site – complete recycling.

4.6 There is however a Japanese Knotweed problem which is the responsibility of Hounslow council. Dean had spent a considerable time the previous week with a specialist contractor mapping the JK.

A full management plan regarding J.K. has been commissioned by L.B.H. re the J.K. this will all be treated on site.

There had to be some re-designing as J.K. was found where the terracing was originally planned, plus the mouth of the inlet has had to be narrowed. J.K. had been found in the roots of existing trees and planting along the bank so these would be largely left as they were, however, the by product of this is a probable saving of approx. £30K, as the specific terracing would be a far smaller area than previously envisaged. Existing planting and foliage would also be retained to an extent along the bank.

J.K. needs treating now and contained on site and the EA would have to be notified.

4.7 A plant nursery was envisaged, Helen was interested in various types of planting, and was invited to join other committee members to advise on this.

4.8 Richard, as a governor of Worple School, said he thought there would be considerable interest in getting children involved in the project.

4.9 There was some concern expressed about site safety with regard to anti-social behaviour, the point was made by several people that the more open the site and the more people encouraged to use it, the safer it would become. The use of CCTV had been discussed and the Furniture Project has been very supportive.

4.10 The fence along the river will go eventually and the lane edge fence will remain until planting has matured, this will consist of dense thicket, brambles etc. and will be very deep in places.

4.11 Dean explained the timing of works in relation to nesting and breeding seasons.

4.12 Lyn Cordoray asked how the terracing would be constructed. It will be coir rolls pre-planted which should also help with the tides which can run high and fast. There were questions re types of planting and the use of faggots which will also be a help with erosion. Permits from the EA will be required for this work. There will be silt barriers to help stop rubbish going down the river.

4.13 Timelines are – hopefully a possible 4 weeks for starting works on site, in a phased sequence, with smaller parts of the works first.

Dean circulated phasing schedule which LBH neeed to comment on. Work will be phased and has been broken down so that as much community input as possible can be allowed for.

4.14 Phase 1 has been completed! The fence around the electricity sub station was completed by SSE after much negotiation by Dean, the furniture project building should be the next part, pending LBH sorting the lease out.

4.15 Both Lyn Cordoray and Amanda Dickinson expressed worries over the proposed mooring, which is of a modest size. It is envisaged that access through the gate (already existing) would be by key only which could be held by either FoNNR or LBH and people would have to register their interest, and usage/access would be controlled. There was discussion over the security aspect of people who backed on to the river. However, the point was made that the river is a public facility and there has been no noticeable abuse of that to use it as an access to enter homes. It is also the case that any thefts that have taken place are few and far between and have concerned boat engines, and the people responsible have got access from the Talbot Road slipway or the Thames, not this part of the river.

4.16 Dean explained that there were quite a few environmental groups on board with the project, there is a positive educational intent and an area for this use will be incorporated. FoNNR will need to start pushing the voluntary aspect in order to know how many people would be interested and be able to give adequate notice to people about forthcoming events. Helen asked if there would be meetings to discuss this, and it was agreed that short organisational ‘task force’ meetings would be needed prior to any volunteer work taking place.

The meeting closed at 9.05.p.m.