

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

Preserve significant open space by investigating, educating, planning and cooperating.

Minutes for January 26, 2016

Attending: Margie Connell, Joe Calabrese, Edna Colcord, Brian Fitzgerald, Steve Lawson, Tracey Plantier, Ed McCorkindale, Ron Dobosz, Jay Taylor

Meeting Began: 7:00 pm

Minutes of December 8, 2015: accepted: (motion: J.T., S.L) Vote: 10:0.

Correspondence:

- The Planning Board minutes were discussed and determined to be not applicable to Open Space concerns.
- A Right of First Refusal opinion request from the Selectmen for a parcel at 218 Three Rivers Road which is presently in 61B was discussed. A Motion was passed to not invoke the right of first refusal (B.F., J.T) 10:0.

Welcome Ron Dobasz: (All)

- Joe introduced Ron Dobasz, the newest Open Space member. Ron said a few words about his background in recreation and his current position as Parks Foreman for Wilbraham. The rest of the OSRPC introduced themselves to Ron.
- Jay asked Ron if it were possible to borrow tools for trail maintenance. Ron said that he would look into it.

This Land Website Update: (Margie)

- Information for landowners who want to preserve acreage in its natural state and/or save on taxes has now been updated and enhanced on the Open Space "This Land" website.
- A trifold pamphlet for those who do not use computers was discussed and will be looked into by Margie. Funding for printing costs might be sought from the Conservation Commission.

Chuck Phillips Trail: (Joe C)

- Signs are up, and the website and kiosks have been updated. A Phillips family picture of them hiking the trail on Christmas Day and an article in the Times on the new trail were noted.

Trail Maintenance and Signs Update: (Joe)

- Joe repeated the need for GPS Town property boundary marking with the help of Tonya Bausch's GPS/GIS tablet app for the following: a loop trail at 12 Mile, the end of the Summit Trail at Crane Hill, and a new trail on the 68V-C parcel at MacDonald Preserve so signage and trails will not cross over to private land. This work will hopefully be done in the spring.
- Jay requested that sign suggestions be forwarded to him for the Minnechaug students to make. Spring installation is planned.

- *The possibility of putting up small maps mid trail to help with navigation was also discussed. Suggestions of appropriate areas and trails will be forwarded to Jay.*

Carla Lane Parking Update: (Tracey)

- *Thanks to Mr. Carnivale, the parking area was paved with spaces for 4 or 5 cars, and he will erect a sign which directs hikers to the Alton's Way Trail.*
- *The site will provide access to the Alton's Way Trail to the north and to the power lines to the south. OSRPC will blaze the connecting trail between the lot and the currently existing access trail in the spring.*

ADA Trail Update: (Jay)

- *Jay and Tracey reported that Stan Teneritz noted conservation concerns of a trail so near the water at Spec Pond and so a CPA grant proposal will not be filed this year. Jay showed a photo of an ADA trail that would meet Conservation needs but would be cost-prohibitive.*
- *Alternate ADA trail sites were discussed, but Spec Pond remains the choice for the OSRPC.*
- *Lance Trevaillian will talk to the Conservation Commission about the issue and get back to the OSRPC who will take up the matter from there.*

Future Ideas: (Joe)

- *Joe brought up the remaining three big issues in our current 2014 – 2021 OSRP that will have to be explored by 2020 when the next OSRP will have to be written.*
 1. *There is a need for a better public OSRP survey. Margie will look up surveys from other towns similar to Wilbraham and bring in what she discovers at a future meeting. Tracey suggested having residents fill out surveys at a town event for citizens this May.*
 2. *Off road bike trails need to be addressed in the next OSRP. Discussion followed about designating some present trails for mountain bike use and investigating the plausibility of a trail from Springfield Street through the Alton's Way Trail to Boston Road. Jay will look into bike trail rules and get back to the OSRPC.*
 3. *For the next OSRP, the OSRPC needs to connect with the Planning Board in terms of Open Space rules with respect to new housing developments. Whether or not the current rules are adequate or have to be changed needs to be explored. Tracey will gather details of the present rules at the upcoming Planning Board meeting on February 3, 2016 and present her findings to the OSRPC.*

New Business:

- *Brian reported on the current CPA applications which apparently exceed the money available to the committee. Some OSRPC members will attend the next CPA meeting to see how the committee chooses to deal with this situation.*

Audience of Citizens: *CW Zimmer from the Recreation Department was present and said that Recreation will support CPA funding for the Mt. Marcy proposal.*

Next Meeting: *February 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall*

Adjourn: 8:30 pm (motion: T.P., J.T.)Vote: 10-0.