

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

Minutes for January 31, 2017

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Brian Fitzgerald, Steve Lawson, Ed McCorkindale, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Marianne Moner

Meeting Began: 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: December 13, 2016: accepted: (motion: B.F., S.L.) Vote: 7:0

Correspondence:

- *Planning Commission permits did not have any direct correlation to Open Space so they were just explained and not discussed.*
- *Joe and Judy corresponded with John Pearsall about Cedar Ridge easements and with Melissa Graves about the ADA Trail CPC Proposal. The details of those correspondences are explained below.*

Alton's Way Easements and Paint issues:

- *Joe explained that Judy and he had met with John Pearsall and corresponded with him in terms of hammering out the details of a possible set of easements around the Cedar Ridge property to allow for the use and enjoyment of our popular Alton's Way Trail.*
- *Joe presented and explained the proposal that had been submitted by Cedar Ridge after input from John Pearsall and the OSRPC. This proposal sets aside as open space the whole back portion of the Cedar Ridge property from the tall pines behind their open field to the back end of their property. This scenario gives a solid buffer against civilization for the trail. In addition, Cedar Ridge is willing to grant an easement on their "Disney Property" which abuts 68V-C and Town of Wilbraham Conservation land so that the Oakes Trail spur of the Alton's Trail can be hiked in full.*
- *Open Space endorsed the proposal unanimously.*
- *The paint wrongfully placed on trees at Alton's Way for a trail race has yet to be removed. OSRPC will continue to seek action on this matter from the Recreation Department.*

CPC Update:

- *Brian explained the various CPC proposals that were being considered by that committee. Of major importance to Open Space were the Cedar Swamp Proposal and the ADA Trail Proposal.*
- *In terms of the Cedar Swamp Management Proposal, Joe explained that this was long on the minds of the Open Space Committee, and it was long overdue. Two studies have been done calling for this. Understanding that the current proposal just gets the process started, the OSRPC unanimously supported it.*
- *In terms of the ADA Trail Proposal, Joe related what he had learned from Melissa Graves about the Conservation Commission proposal. The .6 of a mile trail is to be at Thayer Brook*

and run to the left side of the current trail. It will go out to the stone wall and loop around and back. Benches will be placed along the route.

- *Open Space endorsed the proposal unanimously and wishes to thank Melissa for her hard work in this area.*
- *Brian also took comments on the several Spec Pond Proposals. Open Space favored the pond cleanup proposal unanimously but was split on the other 3 Spec proposals. Brian will take the committee's comments to the CPC.*

Trail Maintenance:

- *Joe expressed the possibility of doing some winter blaze repair at Alton's Way if the weather cooperates. He will send out an email if it's possible.*
- *Jay wanted to thank Julian Drapeau for donating materials for trail blazes.*
- *Ed volunteered to buy some paint for the blazes.*

Back Burner – Hike Wilbraham Day 2/Survey/Mt. Marcy:

- *Hike Wilbraham Day 2 will be the main focus of the February meeting.*
- *Mt. Marcy will have to be re-presented to the State during the 2017 window for grants. This is in the process of being done. Also, the Town will have to be asked at the Town meeting to lend money up front and be reimbursed by the State later. This was done for McDonald's and Rice's.*

New Business: 120 "Likes" on Facebook at present. Joe urged OSRPC members to submit more pictures.

Audience of Citizens: none

Next meeting: February 28, 2017 in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall.

Adjourn: 8:15 p.m. (J.T., M.M.) Vote: 7:0