

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

Minutes for February 23, 2016

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

Meeting Began: 7:00 pm

Minutes of January 26, 2016: accepted: (motion: J.T., S.L) Vote: 7:0.

Correspondence: (Joe, Tracey)

- The Planning Board minutes were discussed. Joe explained that the Board had heard a presentation on Mt. Marcy. Tracey said that the Board was glad to get the information but the board decided that it was out of their purview in terms of voting to support or to not support it. The rest of the correspondence was not applicable to Open Space concerns.

Trail Maintenance Update: (Joe, Ed, Jay)

- Joe said that two trail maintenance trips were waylaid by bad weather. He said that, weather permitting, he would schedule trail maintenance at Thayer Brook next week. The possibility of scheduling a monthly meeting of the committee at a trail for the purpose of maintenance would be looked at too only the weather got better and it got dark later.
- Ed brought up the fact that we needed to be careful in terms of putting up too many signs since the purpose of a trail was to maintain the natural beauty not mar it. Jay added the fact that trails were meant to keep the public in a specific area so as not to disturb the flora and fauna. It was agreed that future maintenance would keep these things in mind.
- The possibility of putting up small maps mid trail to help with navigation was also discussed. Jay had done some research in terms of the cost for the frame and the graphic design of the map to be included. The size is to be that of a sheet of paper. Jay planned on looking further into cost details and getting back.

This Land Pamphlet: (Margie)

- A trifold pamphlet for those who do not use computers was discussed again. Margie said that she would have a mock up for our next meeting.

Recreation Depart. Tools: (Ron)

- Ron Dobosz could not make the meeting because he was called in to work on the storm so this item was tabled until next month.

ADA Trail Update: (Jay, CW)

- Lance Trevailian did not get to talk to the Conservation Commission about the issue of a trail at Spec Pond. Jay volunteered to do so and get back to the OSRPC who will take up the matter from there.
- Alternate ADA trail sites were discussed, but Spec Pond remains the choice for the OSRPC. CW Zimmer, the Recreation Department Open Space liaison, was in attendance and said that the Recreation Department was definitely in favor of Spec Pond. A meeting with Brian Litz will be planned.

Future Ideas: (Margie, Jay, Tracey)

- Margie looked up Open Space surveys from other towns similar to Wilbraham and found several good ones. She will email the websites to OSRPC members, and we will discuss them at our next meeting in preparation for having a survey ready for the Community Fest which is scheduled for May.
- Jay researched off road bike trails and found that there were no specific rules or guidelines for creating a trail, but there were suggestions for how to work one into an existing trail. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- Tracey had not had a chance to talk to the Planning Board in terms of Open Space rules with respect to new housing developments. She will try to do so at the next Planning Board meeting.

CPC: (Brian)

- Brian reported on the CPA applications. Most, including the Mt. Marcy proposal supported by the OSRPC, passed. There were issues with the Oakland Street proposal and the Fountain Park proposal. The CPC had another meeting scheduled on 2/25/16.

New Business: (CW)

- CW discussed a Friends of Recreation Race that was scheduled for May 1st on the Alton's Way Trail. OSRPC members were supportive and offered suggestions for management of the race.

Audience of Citizens:

- No questions.

Next Meeting: March 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall

Adjourn: 8:20 pm (motion: T.P., J.T.)Vote: 7-0.