

## **WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement:**

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

### **Minutes for February 28, 2017**

**Attending:** Joe Calabrese, Brian Fitzgerald, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Marianne Moner, Tracey Plantier, Edna Colcorde

**Meeting Began:** 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes: January 31, 2017:** accepted: (motion: J.T., B.F.) Vote: 7:0

### **Correspondence:**

- Rebuilding of a structure on Peak Road destroyed by the 2011 tornado has been denied by the Planning Board as zoning changes have occurred since then.

### **CPC Update:**

- Brian updated the committee on the various CPC proposals that were being considered by the committee and what the committee was saying about them.
- He reports that there is enough money to cover all of the projects, but they won't all necessarily be approved.
- Questions still persisted as to whether or not some proposals fit the CPC parameters. A meeting will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to make the final decisions.

### **Hike Wilbraham Day 2:**

- Many ideas, especially from Tracey, were put forth for events to increase awareness and use of trails. Some of them include the following:
- The Hiking Club has been successful in getting people out on the trails, so Joe suggested to the Hiking Club head that their schedule be posted on the OSRPC Facebook site. This has been done, and future Wilbraham hikes will now be posted.
- Joe is in contact with Dan Hanzel, the Middle School Vice-Principal, who expressed interest in using MacDonald Farm trails as teaching tools especially for a possible nature walk program.
- The Peach Blossom Festival event might be a good venue for a "Story Walk". Joe suggests contacting Cindy Milner of Pathways for Parents for prepared "Story Walk" set ups and suggestions on how to have a successful event. Tracey will look into it.
- Tracey suggested a "spring challenge" where families submit "selfies" at selected sites on different trails which would be posted on the OSRPC

Facebook site. A possible pizza party could be held at Fountain Park for successful completers.

- The Silverbell Farm was approached by Joe as a possible destination for 12 Mile Brook Trail hikers. An egg hunt on the 12 Mile Trail at Easter was also suggested. Judi will check out possibility of having some kind of event at the Silverbell Farm afterwards.
- Tracey has a Power Point presentation of Wilbraham's open space and conservation areas (which was well received by the Wilbraham Garden Club in February). OSRPC plans to use it at Community Fest.

### **Spring Trail Work:**

- Jay has been in contact with Tom Petzold who has enlisted Marco Milbier to lead the Lumberjack Club at Minnechaug. Jay's plan is to use students on alternate Wednesday afternoons to do clearing at 12 Mile and Thayer in April or later depending on the weather. Student enthusiasm is best in autumn so more work will be planned then.
- Ed bought paint for students to make metal blazes for trails. MacDonald's Alton's Way Trail may have to wait to get re-blazed until Jay returns from a 3 week wonderful hike in parks across country.
- Jay will also continue to enlist Boy Scouts to help clear trails in the summer.

### **Back Burner:**

- Plans are being made by the owners of the property and by the Minnechaug Land Trust to make a presentation at Town Meeting to borrow the money needed to purchase Mt. Marcy.
- Melissa Graves is working with Town legal counsel for easements from Susan Shapiro at 12 Mile Brook.
- John Pearsall says that the Cedar Ridge easements are being worked on by lawyers too.
- The Recreation Department has applied the first coat of paint to cover orange marks on trees at the Alton's Way trail. They will go back and finish the job in April.

**New Business:** Joe urged OSRPC members to submit more pictures.

**Audience of Citizens:** none

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

**Adjourn:** 8:10 p.m. (J.T., M.M.) Vote: 7:0