

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

Minutes for March 29, 2016

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

Guest: Carmen Angeloni (former State Forester)

Meeting Began: 7:00 pm

Minutes of February 23, 2016: accepted: (motion: J.T., T.P.) Vote: 10:0.

Correspondence: (Joe, Tracey)

- Tracey reported on Flexible Non Subdivision Regulation wording changes as they apply to building lots with road frontage less than 300 feet. Open Space requirements are to remain the same, no matter what the frontage.
- Tracey also discussed the LPVEC Bus Facility which will be built at the old Mederos-Williams car dealership on Boston Road. It will serve both Wilbraham and Ludlow.
- Other Planning Board issues were deemed not relevant to Open Space.

Trail Maintenance and Signs Update (Joe, Jay, Ed, Tracey, Carmen)

- Carmen Angeloni with the help of a plot map, detailed wetlands, forest management practices, and considerations for rare species as part of the Forestry Management /Conservation project at the 12 Mile Brook Conservation Area . The land's east portion will be logged in 2017. The center area with the stream will not be touched, and the west 18 acre portion will have more slash left down to meet a Mass Wetland grant requirement. He explained the need for encouraging burrow areas for small mammals and fostering tree health. Opening the canopy will encourage seedlings and provide a safer forest. Carmen said that white pine might dominate but the plan is to encourage red and white oak in the future by scarifying the ground to allow for more seed germination. A concern to Open Space was the large amount of wood chips and slash on the sides of 12 Mile trails. Carmen will work on fixing the issue.
- Ed will create a design to go on a sign, proposed in a Conservation Commission grant, to make the public aware of the Forestry Management Plan taking place at the 12 Mile Brook Recreation Area.
- The April Open Space meeting is to be held at 12 Mile with Carmen in attendance so that the committee may inspect the forestry work.
- Joe said that the wide swaths of wood chips on trails at Thayer Brook have caused problems with following trails. Hopefully, this problem will be solved with the recent addition of signage and blazes.

- *Thayer's new signs will be useful for a Kids' Hike on April 16. Melissa Graves has arranged for a Porta-potty to be in place at the Community Garden for the event.*
- *A trail was cut and blazed from the Carla Way parking lot to the trail system on 68V-B Brainard. A sign is to be erected by Anthony Carnivalle the developer of the area.*

Community Fest (Tracey)

- *The Open Space Committee tri-fold poster display is ready. It will be accompanied by brochures on Wilbraham land and brochures on landowners' options if they wish to keep their land in its natural state. The new Open Space survey will also debut.*
- *Community Fest is scheduled for May 16, 2016 from 5:30-6:40 before the Town Meeting.*

This Land Pamphlet (Margie)

- *The prototype was presented by Margie.*
- *Joe suggested the need for a picture or logo. Margie was looking into it.*

Recreation Department Tools (Ron)

- *Open Space cannot use the tools owned by the Recreation Dept. because of liability issues.*

ADA Trail (Jay)

- *A meeting with the Conservation Commission on placing the ADA trail at Spec Pond is scheduled for April 11.*

Open Space Survey (Margie, CW, Joe)

- *Joe presented the latest iteration of the tentative survey. Suggestions for changes were made. Joe will revise the document and send it on to the Recreation Committee for their input. The results will be presented at the next meeting.*

Future Items:

- *Bike trails and Planning issues were tabled until a future meeting.*
- *Jay is trying to arrange with the Lumberjack Club at Minnechaug for trail clearing in April and May at 68V-C Brainard and other areas. The old green trail blazes are still visible on 68V-C (the Oaks Trail) but a lot of clearing is needed.*
- *Jay has purchased a McLeod rake to help with trail clearing.*

New Business: none

Audience of Citizens: none

Next Meeting: April 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the 12 Mile Conservation Area or in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall if inclement weather.

Adjourn: 8:15 pm (motion: J.t., E.M., J.T.)Vote: 10:0.