

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

### **Mission Statement:**

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

### ***Minutes for April 16, 2016***

**Attending:** Margie Connell, Joe Calabrese, Edna Colcord, Brian Fitzgerald, Steve Lawson, Tracey Plantier, Judy Theocles

**Meeting Began:** 7:00 PM

**Minutes March 29, 2016:** accepted: (motion: Judy, Tracey) Vote: 7:0.

#### **Correspondence:** (Joe)

- Several Planning board proposals were reviewed but none were relevant to Open Space.
- Joe was informed by the Selectmen's Office that Murray Watnick, even though he submitted a resignation to the OSRPC in February, 2015, did not submit paperwork to the Selectmen's Office so is; in fact, still on the OSRPC. Joe has been unable to reach him by phone or email. His term runs out in June, 2016.

#### **Trail Maintenance**

- The OSRPC's plan to inspect the forestry management work at 12 Mile Brook tonight was cancelled due to inclement weather and rescheduled for May 29, 2016 at **6:30**. Note the earlier time.
- A preliminary link trail from the Alton's Way Trail to Town open space land at 68V-C Brainard was finally blazed thanks to Jay, Joe, Ed and Tracey. The new trail, which will be called the Oakes Trail in honor of the former owners of the Oaks Farm, spans the length of the 68V-C property and follows a beautiful stone wall. Jay has scheduled the Lumberjack Club from Minnechaug to work at the site on May 11 from 3:30-5:30 to finalize the trail. Donnie Downing is making a sign for it. It can be entered across from the southern Coleman Cove trail entrance.
- While they were in the area, the OSRPC members found a maze of side trails created by off road vehicles which causes the area between the Carla Way parking lot and the Alton's Way Trail to be confusing. Joe felt that it would be pointless to try to mark each of these trails, and even if we did, there would be more in the future. He felt that we should leave the trail that we currently have marked as is since the kiosks and website give specific directions for hiking it. We just need to redo the blazes to make it clear. This is planned.
- The OSRPC will address this issue of spur trails created by off road vehicles or by Town residents in the future as it is happening on other trails too.
- Jay has scheduled the Lumberjack Club from Minnechaug to work at Twelve Mile Brook on May 25th from 3:30-5:30 to work on fixing a problem section. Help is appreciated as are tools for clearing.
- Brian reminded the OSRPC that there will be a run taking place on May 4, 2016 from 8:30-11:30 which follows the Alton's Way Trail from McDonalds to the Middle School.

- Presently The OSRPC has Crane Hill, 12 Mile Brook and Thayer Brook reasonably maintained.
- Joe discussed easy, medium and hard trailwork and encouraged everyone to get involved. Easy is just picking up trash, pruning and clearing minor debris. Medium is when trail workers each take a section of trail, clear it and then move to another section. Hard is when big tools are needed for major clearing of new trails.
- Joe stressed that if any OSRPC member had some time available, all that member has to do is to notify Joe who will send out a call for other members to help. He stressed that any OSRPC member, not just him or Jay, can initiate trailwork and should whenever possible.
- To mark the end of the Summit Trail at Crane Hill, OSRPC needs the use of the Town's GPS/GIS app and tablet in order to determine Town property boundaries. The OSRPC is also hopeful of creating a loop trail down the other side of the mountain from that point. Tracey will contact Tonya Bausch about it.
- Since securing the use of the tablet is such a hassle, the OSRPC will put in for CPC funds to get their own tablet with a GPS/GIS app in the next round of CPC hearings.

### **ADA Trail**

- Plans for an around Spec Pond ADA trail have been rejected by the Conservation Commission according to Jay. Brian suggested an alternative ADA trail at Spec which goes in another direction should be considered.
- At a future meeting, the OSRPC will look at alternative sites.

### **Community Fest**

- Joe has the table planned. He has a trifold poster with trail information and plans to have "This Land is Your Land" brochures and OSRPC surveys available.
- Joe will use the present survey as a pilot to see how people react to it. Changes will be eventually made to address any clarity issues that come up.
- The date is May 16, 2016 before the Annual Town Meeting

### **Sunday Hunting Bill**

- Tracey made the group aware of a State Bill now in process that would legalize bow hunting on Sundays. The OSRPC was concerned that the one day of the week that hikers do not have to be wary of hunters will be taken away. Tracey will look further into the situation and get back.

**Next meeting:** May 31, 2016 at 12 Mile Brook at **6:30**. In the case of inclement weather, the OSRPC will meet at Town Hall.

**Audience of Citizens:** none

**Adjourn:** 8:30 PM (motion: Marge, Tracey) Vote: 7:0