

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

Minutes for May 31, 2016

Attending: Jay Taylor, Joe Calabrese, Edna Colcord, Brian Fitzgerald, Steve Lawson, Tracey Plantier, Judy Theocles

Meeting Began: 6:30 PM

Minutes April 26, 2016: accepted: (motion: Judy, Tracey) Vote: 7:0.

Correspondence: (Joe)

- Planning board proposals were reviewed, but none were relevant to Open Space.
- Joe was informed by the Selectmen's Office that the OSRPC had to reappoint Brian Fitzgerald, or appoint someone new, as the liaison to the CPC. Brian Fitzgerald was reappointed 7 – 0.

Inspection of 12 Mile Brook Forest Management:

- The OSRPC met at the 12 Mile Brook Trail parking lot and inspected the forestry management work recently done on the parcel. It was unanimous that the work was done well. Nice vistas to the south were opened up and made for pleasant hiking scenery. A large erratic was also exposed for viewing. The north side of the brook had not been touched as of yet.
- The OSRPC hiked the entire length of the brook and then took the new loop back trail on their return. Comments were positive on the new addition.

Trail Report:

- A link trail (the Oakes Trail) from the Alton's Way Trail to Town open space land at 68V-C Brainard was finalized thanks to the OSRPC and the Lumberjack Club from Minnechaug. The blazes were also put in, and Donnie Downing made signage for the trail. It can be entered across from the southern Coleman Cove trail entrance. The public is encouraged to hike the new trail to wear it in.
- The OSRPC and the Lumberjack Club from Minnechaug met at Twelve Mile Brook to work on creating a trail around a dangerous section. Unfortunately, not enough students showed up, and the repair work had to be postponed until the fall. It was thought that students were currently in "summer" mode, and more would probably come out in the fall. Also, the Scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts is coming to the June OSRPC meeting so maybe scouts could be recruited.
- A concerned citizen reported damage to Whale Rock and nearby boulders as kids had apparently spray-painted their names on them. Fortunately, the OSRPC was able to track down the culprits (middle school students). Their names were reported to the police who spoke with their parents. The families have agreed to clean up the damage. OSRPC will go out to inspect the results.

- *Joe and Tracey met with Tonya Bausch and Melissa Graves to learn how to use the Town's GPS/GIS app and tablet in order to determine Town property boundaries. They plan on going out in the near future with the equipment to mark the end of the Summit Trail at Crane Hill. The OSRPC is also hopeful of creating a loop trail down the other side of the mountain from that point.*
- *Joe mentioned that yearly spring maintenance work needed to be done at Crane Hill and 12 Mile Brook. Jay suggested that we ask Ron Dobosz, Parks Foreman and OSRPC member, if he could come out with some Town employees and use the Town owned brush cutters to do some of the clearing on Town recreation land. The OSRPC will ask Ron.*

Mount Marcy:

- *Joe and Steve caught everyone up on the Town Meeting vote to overwhelmingly support the purchase of Mount Marcy and explained what is currently being done to procure Mount Marcy. The paperwork for the grant is being prepared and will be sent in by the end of July.*

Community Fest

- *Tracey and Joe agreed that the Fest was a success. Most of the people showed up towards the end of the time period; however. This made it difficult to take down all of the equipment before Town Meeting started. Tracey mentioned that a side benefit was that a lot of people working the tables were able to network with people from other tables. Joe got a lot of inquiries about how to get trail information. He suggested that the committee start a Facebook page to allow easier access and be more proactive. It was agreed to do so.*

Open Space Survey:

- *Joe said that he managed to get about 20 people to fill out the new OSRPC survey at the Community Fest. He went through the results which showed broad support for open space. The most used trail was Fountain Park by a wide margin, but all of the other trails got high usage marks too. Joe mentioned that the section that asked "What would you do to preserve open space?" was too confusing for most, and he suggested a more generic approach – "What should be done to preserve open space?" Everyone agreed. Joe will modify the survey and work on getting it up on the OSRPC home page.*

Next meeting: June 28, 2016 in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall.

Audience of Citizens: none

Adjourn: 8:10 PM (motion: Judy, Tracey) Vote: 7:0