

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

Minutes for September 27, 2016

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Edna Colcord, Brian Fitzgerald, Steve Lawson, Ed McCorkindale , Tracey Plantier, Judi Theocles

Meeting Began: 7:10 PM

Minutes June 28, 2016: accepted: (motion: Brian, Ed) Vote: 7:0.

Correspondence:

- Tracey explained Planning Board notices of new housing development details on Stoney Hill Road and discussed zoning clarifications – nothing of direct concern to OSRPC.
- Margie Connell, who spent much time researching and reporting on the “This Land is Your Land” project and has gone to, and reported on, many open space conferences in the past ten years while serving on Open Space, resigned. Her service will be deeply missed. She is dealing with the recent death of her husband and feels that it is time for her to move on.
- Ron Dobosz also resigned due to difficulties in attending meetings.

Nominations and Election of Officers:

- Joe Calabrese: Chairman (motion: Judi, Tracey) Vote: 7:0
- Edna Colcord: Recorder (motion: Tracey, Judi) Vote: 7:0

Summer Trail Work:

- Tracey, Ed and Jay have all worked at clearing the trail at 12 Mile Brook to the bridge and beyond. Tracey and Jay re-tied temporary markers on a section of trail which will be marked permanently on Oct 22 while the Boy Scouts work on creating a switchback in a part of the trail that has steep terrain.
- Signs at 12 Mile Brook and Thayer Brook now include ones from DCR explaining the conservation projects done in these areas. The parking lot at 12 Mile Brook is not as large as hoped, and, as a result, it was proposed that carpooling be done from Crane Hill on Oct. 22 for marking project.
- The connecting trail from 12 Mile Brook to Crane Hill seemed reasonably clear in late spring. Tracey will recheck it, but because of the drought conditions, it hasn't overgrown as much as usual.
- Tracey is still in contact with the officer who investigated the graffiti vandalism around Whale Rock at Thayer Brook. It appears a mild effort was made by one of the families to remove some of the paint but the area still needs work. Tracey will recontact the police.

- Steve reports pink blazes remain from a running event on Alton's Way. Brian noted a large tree on the Jasmine Trail which had fallen was cut and cleared to the side trail by some unknown helper.

Fall Trail Work and the Boy Scouts:

- **Oct 22:** Scouts will mark a new section of trail at 12 Mile Brook and create a switchback in a tough terrain area. Carpooling will be done from Crane Hill.
- **Nov 19:** Scouts are supposed to work on the Alton's Way Trail on this date, but Steve will talk to Jay about a bridge at Rice's and a switchback area on the Underpeak Trail that seems in greater need of attention than the MacDonald trails.
- The Summit Trail at Crane Hill needs either a switchback or redone trail section in the area where Joe Calabrese slipped and tore his tendon.
- With the various projects requested and the shrinking size of the Open Space Committee, it was suggested that the Lumberjack Club from Minnechaug could be asked to assist. Jay has done arrangements in past.

Greg Chaconas Land:

- Mr. Choconas introduced a parcel of land in north Wilbraham near Red Bridge for consideration at last June's meeting. Some members are familiar with the attractive site, and all are encouraged by the river trail being developed in Ludlow. However, because there is no public access from Chilson St, and the parcel does not fit present projects vision, the Open Space committee will not explore the land's purchase at this time.

Possible OSRPC Trail Day

- Saturday Nov 26 was proposed for a Town Trail Day.
- Also proposed was having guides at Thayer Brook, MacDonald's (Alton's Way), Rice and Fountain Park with trail times being 9 am, 11am, 1 am and 3 pm so that hikers could choose a time that best suited them or could do all of the trails if so inclined.
- An Easy trail will have a story book event which is the posting of pieces of a children's story along the trail (Joe will ask the librarians for a suggestion).
- At next meeting of Hiking Club (the 2nd Wed of Oct at 7 pm at the Senior Center), Ed will ask for ideas and help, and Jay should be back from Colorado to add his input to plan for day. It is hoped that the Trail Day can be a joint venture of Open Space and the Hiking Club.

Mount Marcy:

- Because of a filing technicality (wrong letterhead on land assessment), State aid will be delayed until 2017. Steve reports that it is not going to cause issues with the CPA grant passed at the March Town Meeting as there is a two year time frame to file and receive the State help. The Project proposal was deemed very doable by the DCR except for the technicality.

Facebook:

- *Joe reports 75 Facebook friends but no activity on the survey. He, surprisingly, has had even more success with Instagram which Tracey said is replacing FB with younger age users. He needs photos to update information and keep interest in the FB page.*

Back Burner:

- ***ADA Trail:*** *CW Zimmer from Parks and Recreation described the layout at Spec Pond and a possible route for an ADA trail that would allow access to the new ADA dock and also meet Conservation Committee restrictions. The committee will revisit the issue in the spring as it is now involved with several Fall activities.*

Next meeting: *September 27, 2016 in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall.*

Audience of Citizens: *none.*

Adjourn: *8:15 PM (motion: Steve, Judi) Vote: 7:0*