

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Marianne Ingrid Moner, Steve Lawson, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Ed McCorkindale, Susan Burk, Bill Michaels, CJ McCarthy, Tracy Plantier, Len Surdyka, ~~Matt Frasier~~

Minutes January 31 2023

Meeting began at 7:00 PM. Minutes from the 12/6 meeting were accepted 11-0. Motion: Jay, second Bill

Mail Correspondence- Joe/None

Spring Community Activities – Marianne

- Tracy has contacted Desiree regarding the Bird Migration Study
- National Trails Day set for June 3rd
- Geocaching will be led by Mike at either McDonald's or Mt Marcy
- Yoga hike at Sunrise Peak - about 8 people are expected to sign up via Eventbrite. Discussed parking via Highmoor or Hollow Rd accommodating possible concerns of neighbors, potential limitation of number of cars that can be parked at either place, potential car pooling for committee members attending and possible need to hold event at site (McDonald's, Mt Marcy), that accommodates more parking
- It was suggested to connect other local groups ie. Storytime/Children's Museum with each event
- Discussed the possibility of sponsoring a Wilbraham Trails Day with other outside events going on ie. Storywalk or guided hikes (could take place on same trail); Desiree could do a presentation on her bird study too. Could hold these in the morning when it's not too hot and traffic won't be a problem. Sue suggested setting these up as OSRPC hikes through the Wilbraham Hiking Club. It was also suggested that it is more appropriate for these activities to be sponsored just by the hiking club
- Other possible future activities: Storytime in July?, Moonlit Walk/Mt Marcy in August, Color Search in October- have a picture contest and post pictures with possible small prizes, Fern and Friends, Astronomy Night at Fountain Park or Community Gardens in November
- Discussed the possibility of rewards/prizes for contests
- Ed suggested advertising on Wilbraham Public Access, Channels 191,192,193

CPC/Recreation/Hiking Club updates- Marianne/Tracy/Sue

CPC

- Meeting went great, good job by presenters, no issues with presentations or applications
- Funds were requested for 1)Information Kiosks and trail signage, blazing, 2) waterflood device for beaver dam at 12 Mile Brook
- Should know the outcome of both applications for next OSRP meeting.

Recreation

- Put in CPC application of \$60,000 of lighting for Spec Pond Rd and \$300,000 for pickle ball courts at Memorial School

Hiking Club

- Spectrum contacted Brian Litz about Jay and Susan being interviewed. After discussion, it was decided that hiking club interview does not need an OSRPC representative.
- So far hiking club has had 5 hikes this year. Most recent hike had 12 people going to Springfield Reservoir in Ludlow. A number of future hikes are planned in Wilbraham and other towns.

2023 OSRPC Objectives – Joe

- Have already started working on yearly objectives ie. Signage, logo, trail markings, volunteer recruitment, use of Facebook and Instagram, planning public events
- Discussed importance of last survey which had 350 respondents. Looking to have new public input source by the fall. Ideas discussed were updating vs. replacing last survey, use of kiosks for passive collection and booths at town events
- Ed offered to get feedback from Cub Scouts after upcoming hike with them.

Trail work and Trail issues Update – Jay

- Trails in general seem to be in good shape, not much or no tree damage reported or seen so far this winter.
- 2/18 trailwork scheduled with Wilbraham Monson Academy 9-11:30AM, this was scheduled to be done at Sawmill but is being moved to McDonald's. Plan to continue in March and April on Saturdays if possible
- 12 Mile Brook Trail beaver dam was recently breached but, at this time, bridge is accessible.
- Jay had a long talk with Melissa, who is planning on attending the next OSRPC meeting, about 12 Mile Brook and the 12 Mile Brook bridge. Jay thought it could be opened. Melissa wants to keep it closed (notice in Kiosk).
- Academy students under Tracy's leadership worked on the surface of the Easy Trail, but it is already re-rutted. Currently use wood chips on ground, another material is needed.
- Still working on standardized trail logo. When ready will present to Conservation Commission.

Back Burner- Girl, Boy and Cub Scout Projects, Next OSRP Public Input Source

- It was reported that Charlotte from the Girl Scouts has made a kiosk for the McDonald/Decorie trailhead
- No update on Boy Scout plans
- Ed has met with Cub Scout pack at United Church (5 dens of 5-9 year olds). He is meeting with them Wednesday 2/1 to follow up. Each group of Cub Scouts needs several parents to accompany them. They will probably help with clean up but will not use any tools. One idea is for individual dens to adopt a parking area to clean up. Ed will invite Cub Scout leader to attend a future OSRP meeting.

New Business

- A new volunteer Form that can be accessed on the town recreation website is available.
- Steve and Tracy are going to attend the Keystone Project.

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Audience of Citizens – None

With no further new business, a motion was made and seconded to end the meeting, and we adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Next Meeting February 28, 2023