

Wilbraham Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Attending: Sue Burk, Joe Calabrese, Bill Michaels, Marianne Monier, CJ McCarthy, Jay Taylor, Judy Theocles, Tracey Plantier, Ed McCorkindale, Len Surdyka , ~~Matt Frasier~~, ~~Steve Lawson~~

Minutes February 28, 2023

Meeting began at 7:03 PM. Minutes from 1/31 meeting accepted 10-0, Motion: Sue, Second, Bill

Correspondence with Cub and Boy Scouts – Joe/Ed

-Joe communicated with a Boy Scout about a Mt. Marcy project - 3 benches and a kiosk. The Scout will prepare a drawing with dimensions of the items, where they will be placed, and how they will be secured and come to OSRPC meeting in March to present this information.

-Ed met with the Cub Scout leader and will be working with the Scouts on a plan to do trailwork.

Spring Community Activities- Marianne

- **National Trail Day 6/3:** McDonald's Nature Preserve: **Geocaching** - Mike Pelletier will give an introduction lecture and post the locations, then hikers will head out to find geocaches.

Storywalk: Thayer Trail, no guide needed, people can easily follow the trail by story signs. May have someone to greet people at trailhead. **Yoga:** at Sunrise Peak, Tracey will assist.

-**Other Summer/Fall Activities: Birdsounds:** an AM hike probably 7:30 start. Sue is leading, Ed and Tracey to assist. Sue suspects parents may bring children and she may adjust start time.

Rock Painting: Thayer Trail, Joe and Tracy will lead. **Moonlight Hike:** 8/31- CJ, Len, Ed, Tracey. Sue recommended a 12 person limit on number of hikers, and hikers are to bring a red light. **Color Search:** in October, Sue leading. Details still to be worked out. **Fistful of Sand:** Sue, Ed, Tracy, in fall. Details to be determined.

-Marianne will send out updated details of these spring activities and other upcoming hikes.

-Joe complimented all the planning Marianne, with help from Sue and Tracey, have done.

-All sign-ups for hikes are through the Recreation Department. This portal can be used to regulate the size of each hike.

- **WHO Fest 3/5:** Sue and Marianne will attend. Joe has poster with trails mapped out and brochures that can be handed out. Marianne will have some pictures to display as well as volunteer applications and waivers to sign. Hiking club will also be recruiting new members.

Questions for Melissa Graves's Visit - All

-Melissa will attend next OSRPC meeting (March), questions to discuss then include:

Development of new trail brochure: Bill has been working on updates for all trail maps.

Current updates have been done for Sawmill, Crane Hill and Oakland trails. Bill is looking into a Minnechaug Reg. High School class to help. Plan is to digitally rough out GPS work and pass it on to high school for finished product. Bill has identified a class and will contact the teacher.

After this is accomplished the information will be used to update our website and kiosks.

Street Signs and Logos: Marianne and Tracey will discuss this with Conservation Commission.

Mowing and Snow Plowing: Jay was told that all plowable trail entrances would be plowed. We need an update on status of these and the policy. Tanya has had an employee mow Hollow Rd. OSRPC is also hoping to get the Middle School Alton's Way entrance area done too.

Regular Communication with Melissa needed. **Beavers/Beaver Dam and Beaver**

Assessment: Twelve Mile beaver dam has been breached but has also either been partially dammed again or had debris clog up breach. Water level has been rising. **Other Issues:** Boy, Girl and Cub Scout project protocol - what help Melissa needs from us. Blades on chainsaw getting dull – files needed to sharpen them.

CPC/Recreation/Hiking Club Updates – Marianne, Tracey, Sue

CPC -Tracey said no change since last meeting. CPC will be voting next week.

Recreation -Sue sent out an email with highlights from the Recreation Committee meeting. Rec Com agrees with OSRPC opinion of wall project on Stony Hill Rd. Rec Com is assessing sale of Brainard Park and requested any opinion OSRPC may have. Judy stated that the park has a long history and has much potential especially with many/new families in area. She thinks consulting with neighbors regarding sale is important. After discussion, OSRPC agreed, and it was decided that OSRPC have no opinion on the matter because the land is not something we can use anyway. Sue will inform Rec Com of this opinion. A possible trail around Spec Pond was determined not feasible. Memorial School assessment is ongoing.

-Tracey presented information regarding Rec Dept staffing. Two years ago Rec Dept stated it could add a Recreation complex without adding any staff. Rec complex has not been built, but Rec Dept is asking for funds for more staff in next year's budget.

Trailwork - Jay

-Jay commented that OSRPC members have been doing a good job monitoring trail conditions.

-Jay and Marianne were approached by a CCD student from St Cecilia's for work to fulfill a CCD project. Student has cleaned out parking lot at Sawmill Pond. Independently student has also cleaned up parking lots at Oakland and Thayer. Based on this one experience, Jay is open to working with other students.

-Wilbraham Monson teacher John Lombard will be leaving his role of teacher liaison for Academy with OSRPC. A new teacher liaison will take over. Jay has scheduled new dates for WMA work days for spring and fall and will send out an email regarding this.

-Thayer Brook parking area: Melisa suggested applying for CPA funds for repairs. Jay thinks this repair is better addressed by DPW and is hoping Tanya will concur for repairs.

-Ticks: OSRPC discussed the need to post something about issue on Facebook. Joe will do so.

Conference Recap - Joe

-Joe attended the State OSRP presentation on Resilience. Because many trees are being lost here, he thought the presentation might provide some useful information. Unfortunately, the presentation mostly addressed issues regarding shorelines, but he was encouraged that the things that we're currently doing are what the State suggests be done.

Backburner - Next OSRP public input source tabled till fall. New McDonald's Land CR: Tracey says CR is done for Gleason, and one is being submitted soon for McDonald's. Hoping the closing is in March.

New Business- None

Audience of Citizens - None

With no further new business, motion was made to end meeting (Sue), seconded by Tracey.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Next meeting: 3/28/23

Melissa Graves will be committee guest.