

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

Mission Statement:

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

### **MINUTES: Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

Attending: Joe Calabrese, ~~Marianne Ingrid Mener~~, Steve Lawson, Brian Fitzgerald, Jay Taylor, ~~Judi Theocles~~, Ed McCorkindale, Susan Burk, Bill Shepard, Edna Colcord, Mike Pelletier, Tracey Plantier

Meeting Began: 6:30 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, March 30, 2021: Accepted with one correction Motion: Tracey | Second: Mike | Vote: 10/10

#### **Audience of Citizens**

- (OSRPC moved this item to first because we had representatives from “Wilbraham - One Book – One Community” with their children attending and didn’t want to have the children have to wait.)
- Meghan Harrigan asked for our help to construct and run, in conjunction with the event, a story walk and geocaching activity on one of our trails or possibly two trails.
- Tracey volunteered to help with the story walk and Mike to help with the geocaches. They will work with the group over the next month.
- The final details for the June event will be discussed at our May meeting.

#### **Correspondence - Joe**

- Joe said that the final editing of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is finished. Changes included comments from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and updated information from the Town Municipal Vulnerability Plan meetings and State Open Space meetings.
- John Pearsall is putting the final OSRP into PDF form to be run off and sent to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for approval.

#### **Recreation Complex and Recreation Liaison - Joe**

- Joe explained that the OSRPC was left out of the loop on this issue because our liaison from the Recreation Committee resigned last fall. Joe contacted Brian Litz about a replacement, and Brian said that he does not have a volunteer. He suggested that we consider sending an OSRPC member as a liaison to the Recreation Committee. Joe asked for one but also couldn’t field one. (Fortunately, after the meeting, Sue Burk volunteered and will contact Brian and begin attending Recreation Committee meetings.)
- The committee also further discussed its reservations about the lack of detail in the Recreation Complex Town Warrant Article. Concerns for safety, possible vandalism, night partying, and harm to our Alton’s Way Trail were raised. Joe sent the OSRPC concerns to Brian.
- Since a large number of our OSRPC resident surveys expressed a desire for the Recreation Complex items, the committee agreed to support the plan but to monitor its progress and comment as it sees fit.

### **Girl Scouts - Ed**

- Ed has been talking with Jennifer Powell from the Girl Scouts about the possibility of their helping with trail work. He also is setting up a nature hike activity for them possibly at Twelve Mile Brook or Alton's Way.
- He is composing a booklet with drawing of flora and fauna that the girls will be able to use as a starting point for a scavenger-type hunt which will lead to Ed teaching them about the various wildlife that they find.

### **Story Walks - Tracey**

- Tracey has put up a story walk appropriately called The Hike at the Thayer Brook Trail. The walk encompasses the entire Thayer Brook loop. The public is encouraged to check it out. Details are on our Facebook page.

### **Migratory Bird Study – Tracey**

- The State is doing a migratory bird study in our area specifically concerned with eating habits and nourishment especially in urban vs. suburban areas. Fountain Park and most likely other Town trail areas will be used for the study. Some of the birds will be tagged so that they can be followed and studied.

### **Logos – Marianne and Joe**

- Marianne couldn't make the meeting, but she sent samples of logos to be voted on by the OSRPC. Joe polled the committee on their choices and sent the results to Marianne. A logo with a white border, green interior and center graphic of tall trees got the majority of the votes. The final logo will be used on street signs which will point out trail locations to residents and on stationery, etc.

### **Signs - Bill**

- Bill held several sign raising sessions in the past couple of weeks. Signs have been placed at Rice's, Twelve Mile, and Thayer with many more to come. The OSRPC thanks Bob Rusczek for his craftsmanship and his time in creating these signs.

### **Trailwork Update – Jay**

- Jay talked about the rash of fallen trees. Unfortunately, the OSRPC has spent more time on that than on trail trimming lately, and the high trimming season is upon us.
- Jay also expressed concern over the number of signs that Melissa Graves wants to print – twelve each of Private Property - Motorized Vehicles - Dogs on Leash signs. He felt that we needed littering signs and some others so he made a motion to request that Melissa print six each of six different signs. The OSRPC voted 10-0 to accept Jay's motion and have him bring it to Melissa.
- Jay talked about the bridges that Melissa wants to put up at Thayer and Oakland. He also discussed putting more bog bridges at Rice's. Steve will ask the MLT about it.

**Back Burner – OSRP Copies/Map/Snow Plowing/Kiosks – All topics tabled**

**New Business - None**

**Next Meeting Date – May 25, 2021**

**Adjourn: 7:45 pm Motion: Ed Second: Edna Vote: 10/10**