

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, June 29, 2021

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

Virtual Meeting Began: 7:01 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, May 25, 2021: Accepted

Motion: Judi | Second: Jay | Vote: 10/10

Correspondence - Joe

- Andrew Strand would like to do an Eagle Scout project. He explained the requirements and is looking to complete it by August 18. Various ideas were presented to Andrew as possibilities including benches, signs, trail marking, and landscaping.
- Steve felt Andrew needed a project with substantial leadership and input. He favored Joe and Mike's Sawmill suggestion which would also allow for more interaction with other committees and Town officials. Jay said that preliminary work could be done by August 18th while waiting for committee approval. Andrew agreed to the project.
- Mike and Andrew agreed to look over the area soon and will keep Joe updated.
- Tracey asked if the pond had ever been tested. Joe hasn't gotten confirmation from Melissa on that yet. Tracey made Andrew aware of possible toxic blue/green algae.
- Joe then mentioned that the DPW had done a great job installing the library book walk trail and everyone should check it out. The first story walk is yet to be installed though.

National Trail Day - Jay

- The day was under-attended, but the hosts felt that those who did attend enjoyed the experience and enjoyed gaining knowledge about the trails. Jay mentioned that his granddaughter wrote a blurb about why it's important to take care of trails, and her picture was in the paper so she had a good time, and we got some PR from it.
- Joe had concerns about spreading ourselves too thin and suggested doing one trail only next time while adding more things to do and connecting up with another Town group to promote it like Mike did with the successful Geocaching event. Jay was very impressed with Mike's event and hopes that, in the future, we'll have more geocaching.

Recreation Report – Sue (read by Joe as she was absent)

- Opponents of the proposed soccer field recreation complex are trying to get a re-vote. The vote may come at a fall Town Meeting. The Middle school campus being now closed to the public during school hours from dusk to dawn will hamper access to a complex there. Open forums and public input are coming up for the large project.
- Finally, all town owned buildings will be reviewed to see which properties need repairs.

One Book – One Community – Tracey and Mike

- Mike conducted a One Book – One Community geocaching event at Fountain Park. It lured experienced geocachers as well as families. About 100 people participated.
- Joe pointed out that our collaboration with the One Book Committee and Mike's detailed preparation made this event successful. Mike felt that it worked well because it was tied in to other events - something to remember for the future.
- Tracey said the One Book – One Community story walk is ready, as trimming was done at Oakland in preparation. It will be open for the public on July 1st.

Logos – Marianne

- Marianne presented some new logo examples and explained that a real design style had not yet been discussed. She said that, as a committee member, her preference would be a more abstract, simple representation for the logo/signage.
- It was agreed that trees remain the graphic and green the color. Jay would like samples with a darker green, but Judi felt the lighter green would be better for visibility with the street signs. Marianne agreed but will provide samples of both in the next two weeks.

Signs – Bill

- The Rice Preserve signage is almost completely up. Every trail there is marked and some mileage signs are up. Thayer is also done. Next up will be Crane Hill and Marcy.

Trailwork/Bridges Update – Jay

- Matt's designs for Bennett and Oakland were presented to Conservation. They are willing to go along with them once an environmental engineer looks at the sites. Now that Tanya is back from vacation, Jay will get her to view the designs and sites.
- The 12 Mile Bridge is a concern because of the water pooling on it. The bridge company is going to check it and come up with a solution.
- Marcy, 12 Mile and Thayer had maintenance done for National Trail Day; Sawmill and Hollow Road will be done by a DPW mower. The other trails will be done as needed.
- Rain and heat will dictate how things go on the trails this summer.
- Joe feels some trails need more blazes in the future also.
- Jay is open to different ways to monitor the trails. Joe will put it on our next agenda.

OSRP - Joe

- Melissa Cryan from the DCR told Joe that a lot of OSRP's were received in the last couple of months and two workers have left the DCR so she is not sure when our OSRP will be inspected. If it happens in the summer and editing is required, Joe said that we may need additional meetings, but we may not hear until the fall.

September Meeting - Joe

- Joe plans on resigning as our Chair after our fall election. He feels that, to carry out the next plan, we need someone with new ideas. Joe is willing to help as much or as little as the new Chair wants. He will remain on the committee as a regular member.

- Joe gave lots of credit to the committee for its hard work on the plan. He said that, from doing the plan, we now have a well-informed group with unique knowledge ready and able to move forward in the fall on preparing for the new 2023 – 2028 OSRP.

Back Burner – MVP/Map/Kiosks - Tabled for now.

New Business – In-Person vs. On-Line Meetings - All

- Joe asked our preference. Tracey mentioned hybrid which still needs to be coordinated. Most agreed hybrid would be best because more can be done with hybrid/virtual. Mike said that the final decision may boil down to what the state determines long-term. Tracey said we have until 2022 to make the most of this option.
- Tracey said a donated property on Nine Mile Pond was accepted by the Selectmen, but the OSRP determined it not suitable to add to our McDonald's Preserve trail system.

Audience of Citizens – Andrew Strand spoke during the Correspondence earlier

Next Meeting Date – September 28, 2021

Adjourn: 8:22 pm **Motion:** Tracey **Second:** Edna **Vote:** 10/10