

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, September 28, 2021

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

Meeting Began: pm | Minutes for Tuesday, June 29, 2021: Accepted

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes – Joe

- Motion: Judi | Second: Tracey | Vote: 9/9

Correspondence – Joe

- Melissa Cryon from the DCR informed Joe that the new OSRP will be reviewed this month so that we will finally be able to prepare to implement it in 2022.
- John Broderick sent an email with his concerns about the lack of communication between Town committees and the public. Joe mentioned that working on that communication is a top priority in the first years of our new OSRP.
- Steve sent an email explaining the MLT's ongoing talks with Anthony Carnevale over a possible purchase of land in the back of Cedar Ridge.

Edna Retirement/Matt Frasier - Joe

- Joe mentioned how much Edna has meant to both Joe and the Open Space Committee, and acknowledged her hard work over the years and our sincere appreciation. He also thanked her for sending the Selectmen a nice note about the work of our committee.
- Matt Frasier will be a new committee member at our next meeting. Matt was approved by the Selectmen a few days ago. Jay feels that Matt will be a hard-working member.

Responsibilities of Committee Members and Chair in New OSRP – All

- Joe explained that whatever no one wants to do falls to the Chair and feels that the other 12 people on the committee should pitch in on a rotating basis taking on some of these tasks. Joe doesn't think anyone will want to be Chair unless the responsibilities are well-defined and reasonable. Jay brought up the new town planner, and how some of our work might best be done by someone who is being paid vs. being done by volunteers.
- Ed mentioned that he joined the committee to work on the trails and didn't feel comfortable doing other tasks.
- Marianne brought up the need for people to learn skills from those who have specific expertise. She also felt it was important for the Chair and committee members to know who has what skills and interests to help when it comes to delegating responsibilities, not a resume but a list of skills that can be utilized when projects and tasks arise.
- Joe felt we should have a job description for the Chair, Trail Manager, and Secretary for future reference in writing and voted on.
- Joe said that in the next meeting we can talk further about our strengths and skills, and we'll vote on job descriptions. Steve pointed out that the Secretary should be posting the minutes as well.

- Judi pointed out how Joe's timeline for creating the new plan improved the plan and removed redundancies and feels subsequent plans will be much easier as a result.

New Trail Monitoring System – Jay

- Jay presented a detailed plan of his goals for trail management to the committee. The plan involves a Trail Manager and Trail Stewards. The stewards' job is to monitor their assigned trails periodically and after major storms and report issues back to the trail manager. The trail manager will then assign a tree crew for storm clearance; otherwise he will put out a call to OSRPC members and other interested parties to do routine trail work. The TM will then provide monthly updates to the OSRPC.

Trail Manager - Nominations/Election

- Joe asked the OSRPC to create, and vote on, an official position of Trail Manager. It was accepted 9/9. (Motion – Steve, 2nd – Tracey).
- Joe and Steve acknowledged all of Jay's trail work efforts. The OSRPC voted for Jay as Trail Manager 9/9. (Motion - Judi, 2nd - Tracey).

Trailwork/Bridges Update – Jay

- Melissa said that the 12 Mile bridge pooling problem is a design problem and she has called in a few times to have an engineer review the design but has not heard back yet. Jay doesn't feel that this is an OS responsibility, but feels that it will be a safety issue if not fixed soon.
- Matt Frasier has given Melissa a list of materials needed for the Oct 23rd Thayer Bridge. The Academy kids are interested in helping on the 30th. The small bridge at Oakland is waiting for approval from Hampden hopefully by the end of the month.

Logos – Marianne

- Between lighter and darker green, the lighter green is the preference. Marianne made one more push for something bold and colorful that's immediately recognizable, but members preferred the tree. Next up is to proof a sign.

Signs – Bill

- Joe explained that Rice's is done; a sign that was thought to be stolen was found. Thayer and 12 Mile are done. Four signs are up on Crane with more to come. Marcy and Alton's will be next.

Back Burner – Hunting Notices/Chair and Recording Secretary Nominations/Proposed Recreation Area/Map/Kiosks - All

- Joe mentioned how the hunting information posted last year was confusing to hikers. Jay said the hunting issue is the job of conservation, but with a FB page, we need to put something up. Tracey volunteered to look into it and to make signs.

New Business – All

- Judi brought up a horse event at McDonald's and asked who receives the entry fee. Mike looked it up and found that the fee goes back to the organization for expenses. Judi also mentioned the 100 cars at McDonald's with the trail race on the same day.

- Jay agreed, the question remains who approves of events on these properties and is there enough concern for homeowners and residents being considered.

Audience of Citizens

- Steve and Joe reviewed the roles of Town land-monitoring committees in response to John Broderick's question on this. All felt that more needs to be done on clarifying this.

Next Meeting Date – October 26, 2021

Adjourn: 8:28 pm **Motion:** Judi **Second:** Tracey **Vote:** 9 /9