

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

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

Minutes: Tuesday December 7, 2021

Attending: Mike Pelletier, Joe Calabrese, Marianne Ingrid Miner, Steve Lawson, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Ed McCorkindale, Susan Burk, Bill Shepard, Tracey Plantier, Matt Frasier, Brian Fitzgerald, and Michelle Buck, Town Planner.

### **-Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes**

Meeting began at 7:00 PM; Minutes for Tuesday 10/26, 2021 accepted

### **Correspondence- Mike**

Sue attended Rec. Committee meeting.

- The Prez property is up for sale again. It's too small for Rec. use, but it has trails that connect with McDonald. Steve said he looked at this 15 years ago but that it was too expensive. Matt will call the family rep and discuss.
- Cameras are being installed at Spec Pond for security.
- There is a parcel near St. Cecelia's that is being looked at as a possible dog park and pickle ball facility. Rec is hiring landscape architects.
- Barbara Pilarcik reported a downed tree by Wayne's bench in the Rice meadow that needs to be cut-up.
- Joe presented the 2021 OSRPC Town Report article and said that it must be submitted in early January. It will be in the Town Report that comes out for the Annual Meeting.

### **OSRP 2022-2028 required revisions- Joe**

- The OSRP must be submitted in early January. It must be approved in the January meeting. It will be in the town report that comes out for the Annual Meeting.
- The state is asking for revisions to the OSRP. Joe feels that most are not too difficult- we have the information – but it needs to be re-formatted for state requirements. Several members (Joe, Sue, Tracey, Jay) are already working on these issues. Michelle Buck will help put it in PDF format.
  - 1) Wildlife corridors need more fleshing out. Tracey will track down an existing map that shows them.
  - 2) Extensive discussion occurred of the need to add a paragraph or two with more information on non-mammals common to Wilbraham.

- 3) The state wants to know the location of older/capped landfills. All old farms have had landfills- this is too much to document.
  - 4) We need to rework the scenic map in the plan. This will be a difficult task.
  - 5) Sue Burke led a discussion on an ADA trail in town- we need to add a list of properties owned by the town that are not suitable for ADA access (Stoughton did one in their plan and the state approved it). We should do an inventory of all town-owned conservation properties (those with trails).
- Joe will gather up revisions and re-submit.

#### **Trailwork/Bridges Update- Jay**

- Jay got an email from a disabled Wilbraham resident asking for an ADA trail (the Easy Trail does not qualify and is hard to use for a walker or wheelchair). The slope of the trail was built to help with drainage, but it tends to push a disabled person to the outer edges of the trail, and the high volume of leaves is a problem to negotiate. Jay will go there next week with WMA kids to rake it. Bill and Tracey offered to go there regularly with hand blowers to help. Ed knows of a group of kids looking for an opportunity to earn extra credit with a civic project who might help us.
- Tracey made us aware of the Mass. Trails grant program to improve trails. Judy suggested that we might apply for one to convert the easy trail to ADA compliant.
- Jay is working on extending the bog bridge near Highmoor by 150 feet at an approximate cost of \$1700. Melissa Graves is evaluating the possibility that there might be existing funds to pay for this.
- Matt is spending the day in the woods Friday 12/10 to evaluate further bog bridge needs/tree removal/improvement in the Thayer Brook area.
- No news from Hampden on the Oakland trails bridge.
- Jay talked to Brian Litz at the Rec Department about plowing the parking lots this winter.
- Jay is looking into possible sources of funding for kiosks. The costs have increased by approximately \$100 per.
- Bill reported that we are now over 40 total trails signs installed in all hiking areas. The last current one will go up next week at Rice.

#### **Community Outreach- Marianne**

- Marianne has created a master list of folks we have worked with in the past, and requested contact information so we can begin a coordinated effort to increase trail use, recruit community members to assist with trail maintenance, and to support the mission in general by cultivating these relationships.
- Marianne wants to incorporate targeted plans for the social media that we use. We are looking for trail adoption. An example would be a media campaign for geo-caching. We would target messages to different age groups based on the topic, and which social media platform is best for each age group.

**Back Burner- Logo, signs, Trash removal, Minnechaug Land Trust/Survey Replacement/Proposed Recreation Area/Maps/Kiosks- All- Tabled**

**New Business- All**

- Ed wants to get help to remove the cable by 12 Mile Brook bridge.
- Jay mentioned that there is a trash problem in the hiking area parking lots. We should all help by visiting them and picking up regularly. If a more major trash problem occurs we can ask for help from the town.
- Tracey is repainting blazes for the pink trail. there is a possibility that we might add a new trail off Underpeak, on the Rice property.
- Steve met with the Selectmen about preserving land at Cedar Ridge and they are enthusiastic about the possibility. Steve will start work on the purchase and sale agreement.
- Tracey mentioned that the property off Tinkham we looked at was purchased and is no longer available for open space.

**Audience of Citizens- None**

**Next meeting date 1/25/2022.**