

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, January 28, 2020

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~~, Emilie Hisgen

Meeting Began: 7:02 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, December 10, 2019: Accepted

Motion: Ed | Second: Edna | **Vote:** 8/8

Correspondence – Joe

- The only correspondence mail came from the Selectmen. It was a chapter 61B “right of first refusal” request for a property at 242 Monson Road. The owner wanted to switch land with his neighbor. The transfer was for 1.3 acres. The OSRPC voted 8 – 0 to not exercise its right. The property did not fulfill any of the OSRPC’s guidelines for acquiring property. It did not protect conservation land and had no connectivity to other Town parcels. Also, the parcel was too small to be of any use.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Sections 1, 2, 3A – Joe

- This meeting was the beginning of the OSRPC’s roll out of its Wilbraham Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022 – 2029 update. It marked the presentation to the committee and to the public of the first 3 newly created sub - sections.
- Joe first showed the cover and the dedication for the report. The report will be dedicated to former OSRPC chair, Chuck Phillips. The only issue here was the photos of Chuck which were old and not as clear as everyone would like. Joe was going to contact Chuck’s wife to see if she had any good photos. The committee will also take a picture of the “Chuck Phillips Trail” sign at Crane Hill and add it.
- Joe proceeded to read each section aloud and ask for comments from the committee and from the public.
- Section 1 (the Introduction) was mostly rewritten by Joe since the last report’s Section 1 was repetitive. Everyone liked the new format so only minor wording changes were made. Once again, the photos were an issue. The committee wanted to keep the Soldiers’ Statue photo but wanted to come up with a trail photo and a Spec Pond photo to replace the Sevey Park photo. Members will look for better choices or take new photos.
- Section 2 was also totally rewritten by Joe. This was the Planning Process section. This section went through the three year plan that the OSRPC had set up to assure that the OSRP would be the best plan that the committee could produce. Its main highlights included all 13 OSRPC members individually (or in small groups) researching and writing 2 – 3 sections of the 26 section plan with the sections being rolled out 2 – 3 parts at a time at monthly OSRPC meetings beginning in January, 2020. Again the photo was an issue as it was a picture of an old Town Meeting in the old high school. A photo will

be taken of the Town Meeting in May at the new high school. Otherwise, just a couple of editing changes were made.

- Section 3A – Regional Context was written by Steve and Emilie. Steve handled the open space regional context, and Emilie handled the recreation regional context. Both updated their sections, adding in new trails and new recreation areas. New maps were added also. The committee and the public then chimed in with ideas for more places and things to add. Finally, the committee wanted the regional map to have Wilbraham highlighted with a distinct border.
- An audience participant suggested that, in the future, the committee put the document up on the screen to make the discussion easier to follow. He explained how we could do that, and we will try to do it next meeting.

Gleason Property – Steve

- Steve explained that the Conservation Commission was going to present a warrant article at Town Meeting about the purchase of the Gleason property, a 71.47 acre parcel that lies in the west central part of Wilbraham between Springfield Street and Dipping Hole Road. It is bordered by 22+ acres of town owned conservation land to the east, and over 100 acres of conservation land to the west. The land to the west goes to the Woodland Park Conservation Area in Springfield.
- Joe explained that the property fit all of the criteria that the OSRPC uses to seek to acquire land – it adjoins conservation land, has connectivity to other Town parcels and is used continuously by neighborhood residents for recreation purposes.

12 Mile Bridge/Road Signs/Kiosks – Tracey

- Joe explained that Tracey was going to present two warrant articles at Town Meeting – one for money to secure and shore up the banks of 12 Mile Brook for the bridge to be built there and one for signs to place at key locations in Town directing interested people to Town trails.

Trailwork update – Joe

- According to Jay, the trails are mostly clear for hiking. There are still a few downed trees, however. If the weather continues to be good, we may head out to do some early trail maintenance. Jay will send an email if we do.
- Bill said that Wilbraham Monson Academy is ready to work with us in the spring. Sue thinks that Citizens' Bank will also help, and Joe thinks that the Boy Scouts will be available too at some point.

Back Burner – Logos/Maps/Mass Trails Grant – All

- Joe talked with Melissa Cryon at the state Department of Conservation and Recreation and with John Pearsall about mapping concerns in the OSRP update. Melissa said that we had to submit a hard copy but that we could put in maps that cover two pages if needed for clarity. John said that the Town could spring for the money to run those pages off. The digital copies of the OSRP will have one page maps with hyperlinks to bigger maps.

New Business – None

Audience of Citizens

- An audience member expressed his willingness to help with trailwork. He will be notified when the committee next hits the trails.

Next Meeting Date: February 25, 2020 in Conference Room 1 due to voting,

Adjourn: 8:50 **Motion:** Bill **Second:** Edna **Vote:** 8/8