

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: January 29, 2018

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 Egan

Meeting Began: 7 pm | **Minutes for December 4, 2018:** Accepted

Motion: Judi | **Second:** Mike | **Vote:** 12 /0

Correspondence – Joe

- Joe asked Tracey if there was any plan to limit the solar panel farms in Town. Tracey said that the Planning Board will be looking into the topic further. The Board went on a site walk to see the land on Tinkham Road where the new solar farm is planned and found it fairly well suited as it had wetlands and thick brush. Supposedly, the panels will not be visible from the road. Tracey will keep us posted on further action.

Grants – Tracey

- We did not get the Mass Trails Grant that Tracey had applied for in this round which dealt with Mount Marcy, but, in the next round, Tracey is pursuing funding for the Twelve Mile Bridge project to offset having to use all CPC funds.
- Our CPC proposal to create a wide bridge with two railings at Twelve Mile Brook Trail did get approved by the CPC and will be on the Town warrant.

Library Storywalk – Joe, Edna, Tracey

- Joe explained that a library permanent storywalk would be created with the help of a two part CPC grant, starting with the planning grant which was approved by the CPC. A second grant will be sought next round to build the trail. Tonya Bausch will be asked to come over with her GIS Ipad to determine the boundary of library property.
- OSRPC walked the area with Karen Demers and determined that the trail can't go around the entire library because of the parking lot and side road and danger to children having to cross, but it should be possible to create a nice loop in the woods behind the Brooks Room and out towards the cemetery.

Mount Marcy/Easy Trail Progress – All

- Tracey has been through the Mount Marcy area a few times, placing ribbons in spots where the current trail could be extended. Steve also has walked the area and marked a possible loop trail.
- Because of the unusually calm early January weather, equipment was brought in to put in a wider trail. At this point, it doesn't quite reach the top, but it is very walkable, and it will be finished when the weather changes to hopefully bring Mount Marcy on line in the spring.

- Easy Trail – no action to finish the trail will be attempted until spring, but the reports are that it is in pretty good shape. Many hikers and joggers have been spotted using the trail.
- Joe still hopes for a trail with asphalt for moms with children in strollers and toddlers with tricycles. The committee will revisit the issue in the future.

Trail Work and Issues – Jay

- The trails are in good shape for now. Some work was done on the Carla Lane entrance to Alton’s Way, and some blazes were put up in various locations.
- Extensive trailwork will be held off until spring.

Open Space Plan Update Primer – Joe

- Joe began the process of creating the new Open Space and Recreation Plan update by going over a three year preparation and delivery timeline and by giving an overview of the current plan and what needs to be done to create a new one.
- As a group, the committee will discuss the 25 subsections, a few each month, and assign sections to OSRPC members as we discuss individual sections. Members will then have one year to research and revise their assigned part of the current plan and prepare to present the results at meetings throughout next year, 2020.
- The goal is to have the plan ready by January 2021 and to present the plan to the public and to the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Selectmen throughout the year.
- The surveys that the committee has gathered will be the basis for the creation of the OSRPC’s next seven-year plan. To get more surveys filled out, Edna suggested bringing surveys to the Democratic and Republican Party meetings. Sue says that we need approximately 375 surveys total to accurately represent the town.
- Ed suggested using video as we create and present the plan to keep the town informed.
- Mike asked about a cutoff date for factual content, and Joe said that there isn’t a cutoff date; it’s just important to get the most current data that you can. Steve said that the dates are not scrutinized.
- Joe said that our plan has to mirror SCORP, the State Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan, and while we will receive lots of requests for things on our surveys that may stretch the bounds of credibility, we have to make rational decisions in the best interest of our town.

Ed’s Video – Joe and Ed

- Joe praised Ed for taking the initiative to create an informational video about what the OSRPC does. The video can be accessed on the town website’s On Demand section under Education. It is also on the OSRPC Facebook page.

CPC Report - Brian

- Brian filled the committee in on pertinent CPC projects including the library storywalk, the viewing area at Fountain Park and the possible acquisition of land for the Children’s Museum

Back Burner – Volunteers/All Trails App/Survey/Hike Day – All

- Sue updated the committee on her work to get all Wilbraham trails onto the All Trails app. She suggested uploading reviews of town trails using the app to create more views.

New Business – All

- Mike reached out to town IT about the survey glitches on iPhones and was told that the town is updating the system.

Audience of Citizens - none

Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2019

Adjourn: 8:12 **Motion:** Tracey **Second:** Judi **Vote:** 12/0