

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

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

Virtual Meeting Began: 7:02 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, January 26, 2020: Accepted

Motion: Judi | Second: Tracey | Vote: 11/11 **With one correction from Judith.**

Open Space and Recreation Plan/Update on Progress - Joe:

- Joe said that we are in a critical phase now, because John Pearsall who officially packages and submits our OSRP to the State for the Town will retire in June.
- Tentative review meetings are scheduled with Conservation and the Selectmen, with the Planning Board still to come. PVPC is reviewing also.
- Thanks to Elise, the new editor of the Wilbraham Times and the IT department who helped us to get the word out about the OSRP draft to the public.
- Joe explained that we will do a full blown presentation for the public on March 30. Joe sent a handout to committee members showing how we will each present our section on that night.
- Tracey asked about the public rollout vs the committee presentations. Joe plans on giving a 3-4 minute talk for the committees, realizing that they have full agendas of their own. Joe also feels it's important to discuss how, as committees, we are interconnected. Tracey feels Conservation and Planning presentations should be longer. Joe will ask them and see what they prefer. Joe will summarize all of the sections if they wish it.
- Steve suggested inviting folks on the boards to have a representative attend our public rollout. Judi likes the idea of them questioning us.
- Important dates before our next meeting: 22nd – Conservation meeting, 29th - Selectmen meeting. Planning – TBD.
- Finally, Joe is hopeful that we can get edits completed by summer and the final OSRP to the State soon thereafter. That way, we will have no lapses in our present and future plans.

186V Tinkham Right of First Refusal Status – All:

- Steve said that Dr. Mathews who owns the 82 acre piece of property abutting the old Rice farm, set a closing date in May. He has a signed PS agreement with a solar farm company, but the town has the right of first refusal.
- A number of meetings have taken place on the issue. In last week's meeting, questions still remained about the offer.
- John Broderick wrote up a CPA proposal in case it is needed. The lawyers are seeking a legal decision. Tracey said that there are still lots of unanswered questions. Steve said that nobody really wants the entire area to be taken up by solar panels. Zoning is being

looked at as well as subdividing the property, and perhaps building a parking lot to access the preserve.

Twelve Mile Bridge – All:

- Tracey said that concerns about the length of the old bridge and of getting it out to the parking area have resulted in the decision to just cut the bridge up. Melissa said not to worry - that we will get the wood we need for projects if the bridge wood is not adequate. We are waiting until the weather improves to remove it. Jay said that there is about \$400 left for the removal of the old bridge. Joe said it would be nice to roll the new bridge out to the public in the spring pending COVID issues.

Logos – Marianne:

- Marianne sent out several samples. Once preferences are chosen for format, graphics and text font, a final set of 3 mockups will be decided on for a sign/logo, and presented to Conservation. The road signs will be double sided for viewing in both directions while on the road. Placement will be determined later.

Signs, Kiosks, Bridge Board Replacement List – All:

- A review from AllTrails pointed out that we have too few signs and not enough blazes. A sample sign was made by Bill's friend, who is a craftsman, and he is willing to do additional signs (15-20) for a reasonable amount of money (\$16/sign). We can put them up in the spring. They have pressure treated posts and cedar signs. We can also fix the damaged blazes and add more then.
- Bill gave a list of possible locations. Ed described the Audubon signs and colors, Sue mentioned that some trails have several access points. Jay felt that we needed a cost estimate. Bill suggested a subgroup to review the signs and cost. Joe will work up a complete list.
- Steve mentioned that "you are here" signs/maps" are needed too. Steve thinks he can get some money from MLT to help. Bill feels that the better the signage, the safer people feel, and the more use the trails will get.

Trailwork Update – Jay:

- Storms were nonevents last month with very little damage. Jay asked Melissa about plowing. The DPW may do it on a major snow clearing day, but it is hit or miss. He said that someone is plowing around the community garden. If the rec dept. is now plowing one area why not plow all of them? Joe thinks we should go to the Selectmen to find out who is responsible. Since the winter season is waning, he will put this on the back burner for fall.

Back Burner – OSRP Copies/New Survey/Girl Scouts/Map – All:

- Judi looked into getting copies of the OSRP made - cost is about \$55 each. She will ask Monson Savings to print some. Joe said that we'll need a new survey soon after the new OSRP kicks in. People are still filling them out.

New Business – All: Tracey said that a new sign at Highmoor talks about mandated masks. It's a quite large, professional sign. It is not at any other location.

Audience of Citizens

- David Sanders asked about our 899 followers on FB, and Joe explained the site and that the OSRP draft is up and available to the public.
- Kevin Burke said he has used trails for years and asked about the trail platforms. We explained our webpage and that we are on AllTrails.

Next Meeting Date – March 30, 2021

Adjourn: 8:36 pm

Motion: Brian Second: Tracey Vote: 11/11