

# WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

## Mission Statement:

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

## MINUTES: Tuesday, February 25, 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 Egan~~

**Meeting Began:** 7:03 pm | Minutes **for Tuesday, January 28, 2020:** Accepted

**Motion:** Judi | Second: Edna | **Vote:** 11/11 \*\*Sue arrived after this vote.

### Correspondence – Joe

- Two conferences are coming up. The first is the yearly State OS conference in Greenfield on April 25th at Greenfield Community College. It is free to attend. The second is the Regional OS and Conservation Conference on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm in Springfield with a panel discussion and networking. Joe passed the literature around to OSRPC members.
- Steve and Tracey have submitted an application for the Massachusetts Keystone Project at UMass.

### Open Space and Recreation Plan: Sections 3-History, 3 - Population Characteristics, 3-Growth and Development Patterns – Judi, Bill and Mike

- Joe is amazed and very pleased at the progress and hard work exhibited so far on the new OSRP. So far each part assigned has been completely rewritten and updated. Also, OSRPC members have done many interviews, much research, and have each gone through several drafts.
- Joe reminded members that the plan is not intended to be an exhaustive study of every aspect of Wilbraham but a series of “snapshots” of the areas of concern leading to the seven-year plan at the end. Also, the State sets the rules as to what sections are included, what goes where and what is included in each section, not us.
- The discussion began with the History Section put together by Judi and Bill. Most of the discussion centered on what should and should not be included.
- Dean, from the audience, spoke up to say he was very happy that the information was included in the plan. He thought that it was very interesting.
- The OSRPC decided to leave in all of the parts that matched up with the included historical map of Wilbraham that will contain the locations of the various landmarks and events.
- Some spelling and vocabulary was questioned and changed, but for the most part the new History section got high praise for its focus on interesting events and its use of pictures and maps.
- The discussion then switched to the Wilbraham Demographics section that Mike did. He used statistics from the 2018 census data from the State.

- As most of this was data driven, the results were discussed not changed. The biggest point of interest was a population projection from UMass which projected an increase of 4000 residents in Wilbraham by 2035. Committee members saw that as possibly having a dramatic effect on the quality of life in Wilbraham.
- Again the report was praised for being completely redone and for the detail and mix of charts and maps illustrating the points.
- Next month will involve the soils and vegetation sections as well as water and landscape features.

### **12 Mile Bridge/Road Signs/Kiosks – Tracey**

- All CPA proposals moved forward except for the kiosks which will be addressed next year.

### **Trailwork Update – Jay**

- Wilbraham Monson Academy students and boy scouts committed to several days of trailwork in the spring and in the fall. Citizens' Bank also agreed to some spring dates.
- March 21st will be the first session of the new season. The hope is to get out early and widen as many paths as possible before the growth starts.
- Dean, in the audience, who sometimes heads into the trails himself to do some work and keep the paths clear, says there is still some undergrowth from last season.
- Jay says that one concern is fallen trees at Sawmill, Marcy, Rice's and Crane. They are to be checked on Wednesday the 27th.
- On Saturday the 21st, Jay is looking for 5-6 people for Mt. Marcy. The Academy will work on Oakland on March 28th, and scouts will work on Rice's on April 4th.
- Future dates will be set later. Jay noted that he likes having the kids help.

### **Back Burner – Logos/Maps/ Mass Trails Grants**

- Nothing new on the grants.
- The logo to be discussed when signs are determined.
- Melissa Graves is working on the map of all Wilbraham trails.

### **New Business - All**

N/A

### **Audience of Citizens**

- An audience member said that her neighbor was going to sell some property and wanted to know if we were interested.
- The OSRPC felt that the timing for considering any property purchase would not work because of the Gleason property purchase currently on the Town Meeting warrant. It will have to be considered at a future time.

### **Next Meeting Date – March 31, 2020**

**Adjourn:** 8:34 pm      **Motion:** Tracey      **Second:** Edna      **Vote:** 12/12