

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, March 30, 2021

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

Virtual Meeting Began: 7:01 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, February 23, 2021: Accepted

Motion: Mike | Second: Edna | Vote: 11/11 (Jay not present for vote)

Open Space and Recreation Plan Presentation to the Public - All

- After close to two and a half years of preparation, the OSRP plan was officially rolled out to the public tonight. This process took up the bulk of the meeting time.
- The twelve committee members presented summaries of the section(s) that they had researched and composed (a total of 26 sub-sections plus 100 pages of appendix materials).
- Joe gave background into the process of creation, explained how the report is in two major sections – data and needs, and summed up the final goals. He also explained why the report was important to Wilbraham.
- Anyone who missed the meeting can catch a video of it on the Wilbraham Town website ([Video On Demand | Wilbraham, MA - Official Website \(wilbraham-ma.gov\)](#)). Also available is the full OSRP which is on the Town of Wilbraham Open Space homepage (<https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/120/Open-Space-Recreation-Plan-Committee>).

Jeff Witek and Emergency Plan for Fire Department - Joe

- Jeff Witek contacted Joe about a project he wishes to work on. He is currently enrolled in a Community Risk Reduction course at Westfield State and would like to work with the Town Fire Department to improve our emergency response to our outdoor spaces.
- Often there is confusion as to the best place to access the trail systems. Jeff would like to work with the Open Space Committee, not only for his course, but also to improve the Fire Department's knowledge and response to the recreational areas in town.
- His goal is to get some state aid and an off-road vehicle to rescue hikers when needed.

Municipal Vulnerability Plan/ State OS Conference - Joe

- Joe explained the Wilbraham Municipal Vulnerability Plan which was begun over the past two weeks through a series of virtual meetings with Town committee chairs and department heads. With an actual plan, Wilbraham will be able to apply for State grants to help with climate change issues. More meetings will be held in April.
- The State Open Space Conference, also in virtual meetings over the last two weeks, detailed the State's new Resilience program which includes the MVP project.
- For more information on MVP and Resilience grants: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/resilience-program>

186V Tinkham Right of First Refusal Status - All

- There were problems with the contract between the solar company and the landowner so the proposed sale is currently off the table.

Logos - Marianne

- Logos were tabled until next month to allow for more discussion time.

Signs - Bill

- The Underpeak sign was tilted - probably because of the frozen ground thawing. It will be fixed when the weather gets milder.
- There are 6 completed signs; 20 more or so will be ready in a few weeks; signs will be put in starting in April.

Trailwork Update – Jay

- Ed said that there is a large white pine down at 12 Mile. Jay is tentatively planning on taking care of that early next week as well as ones down at Thayer Brook and Oakland.
- The spring raspberry problem at Marcy and Oakland may be handled on a Friday or Saturday. Nothing is currently urgent though.
- Mike saw a sign on the web about no trespassing and staying on marked trails. We can have similar signs made for any areas such as Oakland where this is a specific issue. Joe will show the sign to Melissa.

Back Burner – 12 Mile Scavenger-Like Hunt/OSRP Copies/Girl Scouts/Map/Snow Plowing/Kiosks - All

- All topics tabled

New Business - All

- Next month, we will meet at the Easy Trail which has benches. If it rains we'll move the outside meeting to May and meet virtually in April. Joe will set up the meeting for 6:30.
- Tracey mentioned the proposed recreation complex that includes 4 projects. Tracey felt that Brian Litz should be creating a detailed plan for all components before proposing anything at Town Meeting. Joe will contact Brian and express our concerns.
- Steve feels that we should check out the property along the Chicopee River on King St. that is being offered to the Town. Melissa is looking into it further.
- Joe thanked the committee for all of the work on the plan. There are still a few items to be added over the next 3 weeks, but we should be able to send it to the State then.

Audience of Citizens

- John Broderick asked about the listing of Chapter 61 land in the OSRP because some parcels appeared to be in two charts. Joe said that was most likely because not all of each piece of property has a conservation restriction.

Next Meeting Date – April 27, 2021

Adjourn: 8:35 pm **Motion:** Ed **Second:** Edna **Vote:** 12/12