

## **WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement:**

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

### **MINUTES: April 3, 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

**Absent:** Ed McCorkindale

**Meeting Began:** 7 PM

**Minutes for February 2018:** Accepted **Motion:** Edna **Second:** Brian **Vote:** 11 /0

### **Introduction of Aaron Tillberry, new Recreation liaison**

#### **Correspondence – Joe:**

- Bike trail - Joe spoke to Brian Litz and explained that OSRPC decided that it doesn't want to add bike signage to the trails that we have since hikers are very happy with the current trail system situation. Brian will bring the matter up to the Recreation Committee to see if there is a possibility for a bike trail on recreation land. Aaron suggested a possible bike trail at Spec Pond. Aaron will bring OSRPC's thoughts to the next Recreation Committee meeting.
- Signs for the Oakland Trail and for Sunrise Peak will be done for free by Donnie Downing by the end of the month. OSRPC thanks Donnie for all of the work that he has done for us.
- The Oakland Trail needs a bridge for its small wetland section. Mike said someone put logs down. OSRPC will check the area out on a future trail work day.

#### **Mt. Marcy/"Easy Trail" - All:**

- OSRPC is thrilled that the state came through with the funding of \$195,000 for the purchase of Mount Marcy. The Selectmen have approved the purchase with CPC and State funds.
- Jay Gagliarducci, the seller, is looking forward to getting started on creating the trail. He will flag a possible route and notify OSRPC so we can get started analyzing the situation and blazing the trail.
- The "Easy Trail" which is meant to be accessible by some disabled hikers was approved at the summer Town Meeting. The trail will be put on the Thayer Conservation area.

**Spring/Summer Events (Story Walk, Flag Day, Hike Wilbraham Day, Middle School Hike)**

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**All:**

- Joe provided a review for our four new members of what the committee does outside of the meetings. He explained how the committee has managed to connect with every generation in Town as a result of the projects that it has done.
- Joe stressed that if any committee member has an idea, he/she is encouraged to bring it up at a meeting and take the lead in accomplishing it so we can continue to meet our mission.
- Story Walk: Tracey will ask the Children's Museum folks if they are interested in another story walk. Fountain Park was discussed as a possible location. Thayer Brook is also ready for a walk but we need to find out the level of interest. A story walk could also take place during the Peach Blossom Festival.
- Flag Day: Joe would like to see the Flag Day activity that was postponed last year done this year. He thinks that it might work best at a grammar school. Aaron thought that second and third graders were the perfect age for a flag day activity. Edna and Judi will contact Stony Hill School.
- Hike Wilbraham Day: Joe felt that we tried to cover too many trails in our previous Hike Wilbraham Day and recommended choosing one location this time and have guides available. Steve mentioned Mt. Marcy in the fall. The OSRPC agreed.
- Aaron volunteered to try the Hike Challenge with his family. OSRPC will revisit the issue next meeting after getting his input.
- Middle School Hike: Joe will contact Mr. Wilson at the Middle School to see if teachers are interested in a second field trip this June. Sue brought up Mountain Day at Mt. Holyoke, and suggested a trail day for schools in which teachers have a lesson planned for the trek. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

**Trail Work - Jay:**

- The next trail work day is Monday the 9th of April. OSRPC has the Lumberjack Club students from Minnechaug scheduled to work at Crane Hill overseen by their faculty advisor.
- Jay would like to do two trail days a month from here out until the weather gets bad in the winter. Edna suggested posting a cleanup day on Facebook. Jay, Joe, and Bill all felt that might be too many hands without enough organization.
- Jay said that the 12 Mile parking lot will be expanded, but the DPW is not sure of when they will get to it.

**CPC - Brian:** All projects were approved and will go before the Town Meeting.

**Back burner - forest management, survey - All:**

- OSRPC will post another request to fill out the survey on Facebook. Joe says that we have 95 of them filled out at present.
- Joe said that the forest management work at McDonald's still hasn't started.

**New Business - All:**

- Judi wants to explore the possibility of getting a grant to put a bike path to Ludlow on the old railroad trestle. Brian pointed out that the bridge is very narrow. Sue pointed out that repairing a bridge is doable; she's seen it done elsewhere.
- Judi also brought up the fact that 2-3 sturdy concrete and wood benches for use at McDonald's were available from Anthony Carnivale. They need painting, and Judi is hoping the DPW might be willing to place them.
- Judi also mentioned Anthony was hoping for an endorsement from Open Space for a mixed use proposal at the old post office. The prevailing opinion was that doing so was not appropriate for the committee.

**Audience of Citizens:** none

**Next Meeting Date:** May 1, 2018 at 7 PM in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall.

**Adjourn:** 8:26 pm    Motion: Judi    Second: Tracey    Vote: 11/0