

# WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

## Mission Statement:

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

## MINUTES: May 1, 2018

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

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

**Motion:** Mike P. | **Second:** Brian F. | **Vote:** 7 /0

### Correspondence – Joe

- Laurie Broadbent initiated a CPC application, which was approved, to restore our civil war monument. Stoughton Smead explained to the OSRPC that one cannonball remains of four that went missing in the 60's. The hope is that hikers might locate other cannonballs from the monument somewhere on a trail. It will be costly to recreate the missing cannonballs. There is no information currently on who created the monument, one of several throughout the Northeast, but Stoughton is still researching.
- Other correspondence dealt with issues not pertinent to OSRPC.

### Hiking Challenge Redo – All

- Aaron was not able to go to all six locations but plans to go with his family and another once he has returned from a trip to gauge the difficulty of finding markers.
- Sue, birdwatching with a bird club - not the hiking club - was able to find a marker but says she would not have seen it at a hikers' pace.
- Mike brought up the size of the markers and how they are photographed and suggested including their dimensions so hikers know what to look for.
- OSRP then revisited the possibility of offering incentives like ice cream or beer for those who complete the challenge in addition to their being placed in the Wilbraham Hiking Hall of Fame on our website. Joe suggested more publicity. Mike suggested handouts at the Peach Festival. Ed suggested handouts at Plow Day.

### Mount Marcy – All

- Before trail construction can begin, the house to be built at the bottom of the mountain has to be surveyed, as no kiosk or trail can be placed on private property.
- The paperwork should be done by the end of May, later than anticipated. Work should begin by the beginning of June as the money has to be spent by July 1.

### Spring/Summer Events (Story Walk/Flag Day/Middle School Hike/Community Fest) - All

- Tracey is planning a story walk at the Peach Blossom Festival on June 16th. There is some concern about ticks, particularly with the recent CDC announcement regarding an increase in tick activity as well as an increase in the diseases they carry. The situation will be monitored to assure the safety of the hikers.
- Judi was not able to speak with the Stony Brook School principal about a Flag Day event, but will speak to the principal when Judi returns from a trip. Since the school courtyard would be less apt to have ticks, it could be the perfect venue.
- Joe said that Mr. Wilson (a science teacher at the middle school), who is currently injured and recovering, thinks he will be ready when the time comes for a second middle school field trip hike in June. OSRP will check in late May to see as to whether or not we will be needed to assist on the hike this year.
- Joe will set up a table for Community Fest. He has added materials on the Oakland Trail and Mt. Marcy. Sue will be at the Wilbraham Hiking Club table and will try to get some OSRPC surveys filled out there.

#### **Trail Work/Damaged Kiosk – Joe**

- High school students from the Lumberjack Club did not show up to the scheduled April work day. They are scheduled for two more cleanup days, but there is concern that they will not show up for those dates. Whether students are available or not, OSRP plans to organize days of trailwork in the mornings during the summer to avoid the afternoon heat, and weekends are a possibility also.
- In the summer, Twelve Mile Brook needs work as does the connector from there to Crane. Under peak and the Tom Leary Trail also will need work. The new Oakland trail needs to be checked.
- Sue and Joe said that Alton's Way is bad due to ATV activity, and there is no easy solution to flatten it back out other than a lot of hiking activity.
- Sadly, the Crane Hill kiosk was vandalized and the plexiglass needs to be replaced. Jay and Joe are looking into having it done. Joe will contact Donny Downing to find out the best source of clear plexiglass. Jay will ask the Conservation Commission for funds.
- Trailwork should start in earnest in about 3 weeks, once vegetation pops.

#### **Back Burner – Hike Wilbraham Day/Trestle Trail/Bike Trail/Forest Management/Survey– All**

- Joe expressed the possibility of having another Hike Wilbraham Day in the fall to kick off the new Mt. Marcy Trail. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Ed spoke with the builders of the Ludlow River Trail to see if it will be eventually continuing down to the trestle. It will not. In addition, the condition of the trestle and the fact that the Town doesn't own it or the land that it connects makes the proposal to put a trail on it unfortunately undoable at this time.

- Joe said that the bike trail idea was discussed by the Recreation Committee, and they have the same issue that we have – they can't come up with a place on their land to put it. They suggested a joint subcommittee of OSRPC and RC to explore it together. Ed and Brian volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
- Aaron and Edna were both instrumental in getting more residents to fill out surveys. OSRPC now has 135 completed surveys. OSRPC will try to get more filled out at the many Town events in the next few months.
- Nothing is happening with forest management at this time.

**New Business - All**

- Two items which impact OSRPC will be discussed at Town Meeting - an EZ trail on Thayer Brook conservation land and forest management for Sawmill Pond.

**Audience of Citizens:** none

**Next Meeting Date:** May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 at the Ludlow River Walk

**Adjourn:** 8:09 pm    **Motion:** Sue B.    **Second:** Mike P.    **Vote:** 7 /0