

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

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

Virtual Meeting Began: 7:02 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, April 27, 2021: Accepted

Motion: Joe | Second: Bill | Vote: 9/9

Correspondence – Joe

- John Pearsall praised the committee's work on the OSRP. He will try to run off copies for all members when he runs off a copy for the State DCR.
- Joe mentioned that, at the MVP conference, the most popular answer of best things about Wilbraham was Open Space.
- Ron Haislip-Hansberry sent in a request for the OSRPC to address possible issues that would be created for neighbors of the proposed recreation complex especially the path across from his house which would be widened to 30 feet across. Mike said creating plans for review is the next step; no final plan exists at this stage. Stan Soja from the Recreation Committee was in attendance but had no comment at this time.
- Sue noticed 17 and 19 B on Ely Rd are up for sale to make 3 ½ lots. Building there could block the view from Mt. Marcy. Sue asked if there was a way to purchase the land or a way to make sure the view is still available (asking price is around \$280,000). Tracey said she spoke with Steve 4-6 months ago; Steve was concerned about the price for the amount of land. Tracey said that even though house height is restricted on the mountains, any houses may still be in the way of the view. Sue suggested a platform, Tracy said a lookout has been suggested, but comes with other issues such as vandalism, partying, and potential accidents. Tracey said that an Ely Road access could give people with mobility issues access to the view. Joe will run it by Melissa Graves.

National Trail Day Cleanup Plan – All

- Jay wrote a National Trails Day proposal inviting people to come and celebrate being on our trails. It involves 2 two-hour blocks at three trails on June 5th when someone from OS will hand out cards with 'leave no trace' rules and provide information about the trails. Jay thinks kids could serve as trail ambassadors. Brian Litz could print up sticker badges for their shirts. Joe said that the new editor will put it in the paper and that he will put information on Facebook and Instagram. Ed offered to put something up on public access TV. Sue said that we could also tell people that the AllTrails app has our trails.

Recreation Complex and Recreation Liaison – Sue

- Sue volunteered to be the Recreation liaison and attended her first meeting. She thanked Emilie Hisgen, our former liaison, for her work with us. Brian Litz introduced people from a company that creates recreation complex plans. He said that is the next step, and there will then be time for feedback. Joe felt that OS supports what they want to do, but not necessarily the location. Sue felt that the location also has issues with habitat and the environment. Joe said that we will monitor and revisit this issue.

Girl Scouts – Ed

- Ed hasn't had any luck reaching Jennifer Powell. Joe will see if he can reach her.

One Book – One Community – Tracey and Mike

- Tracey said that OS is doing a surprise story hike at the Oakland Trail starting July 1st.
- Mike is hosting geocaching June 12th, from 9-12 at Fountain Park. He also has people coming throughout the day to teach it to families. A loop will start at the new patio out to the sledding hill and back, avoiding the dog area. Mike is also putting a couple caches at Sawmill. Events are open to anyone interested in trying or learning about geocaching.

Logos – Marianne

- Marianne brought up a lack of discussion around what best represents OS; trees seem to be a favorite but she felt that we shouldn't vote until we see a variety of options. Marianne's preference is something more unique/abstract. More mockups will be provided before next meeting.

Signs – Bill and Jay

- We have 14 signs up, mostly at Rice's, Thayer, and 12 Mile. Two more are to be put up next week. 15 more signs are in the works. Bob thought that if we liked his Whale sign, he could make some to sell to raise money. There is worry over possible sign stealing.

Trailwork/Bridges Update – Jay

- Jay said that Parks and Recreation will be plowing trail parking lots during winter, and the old 12 Mile bridge is set to be taken out next week.
- Matt Fraser presented bridge materials for Oakland and Thayer: the layouts and the costs. Thayer needs a 16 foot bridge, Oakland a shorter - 12 foot bridge. Construction is pretty straightforward. These would be robust bridges that will be there for a long time. The cost - Thayer \$356 materials, Oakland \$464. Mike made a motion to bring this to the Conservation Commission - Motion - Mike, Second - Tracey, vote: 9/9.

Back Burner – OSRP Copies/Map/Kiosks – All – no actions

New Business – All

- Ron Haislip-Hansberry felt he didn't get enough notice about Stony Hill being a targeted location for the new recreation complex. Memorial School was the initial location, and the selectmen didn't give feedback until the last minute. Tracey pointed out this is just an application for funding, not a plan for construction. There will be public meetings. Sue said that Brian Litz reiterated that the plan is not set yet. There may be several plans before deciding what's best. It's important for critics to be mindful but not to get prematurely upset. Joe suggested Ron get neighbors on board when the time comes.
- Marianne asked about a message on Facebook about pooling water on the new 12 Mile bridge - Tracey said they had planned for that based on the angle of the bridge, and the solution is to put holes in for drainage.

Audience of Citizens - Stanley Soja, Matt Fraser, Ron Haislip-Hansberry attended.

Next Meeting Date – June 29, 2021

Adjourn: 8:36 pm **Motion:** **Second:** **Vote:** 11/11