

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: May 29, 2018

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Steve Lawson, Brian Fitzgerald, Jay Taylor, Ed McCorkindale, Edna Colcorde, Mike Pelletier, Tracey Plantier, Aaron Tillbury, ~~Sue Burk, Judy Theocles, Bill Shepard, MariAnne Moner~~

Meeting Began: 7 pm | **Minutes for May 1, 2018:** Accepted

Motion: Edna | **Second:** Tracey | **Vote:** 8 /0

Correspondence – Joe

- Correspondence dealt with issues not pertinent to OSRPC.

Hiking Challenge Redo – All

- Since not many hikers were able to find our Wilbraham Hiking Challenge markers on the trails, Joe made another set of them.
- The plan is to take down the ones that are current up which face into the trail and to, instead, put markers on both sides of the tree facing up and down the trail so that they'll be visible from a distance in either direction.
- The Open Space maintenance crew will put the new markers up as they work on the trails during the summer.
- In the fall, the committee will do a new push to get hikers to find them, take pictures of them and apply for Wilbraham Hiking Hall of Fame status when they collect them all.

Mount Marcy – All

- Steve and Jay attended a Conservation Commission meeting in which John Pearsall outlined the steps forward to getting the trail constructed.
- The land for the house to be built at the bottom of the mountain has been surveyed.
- The paperwork should be done by early June. Work should begin on the trail shortly after that.
- Target date for completion is the fall.
- The OSRPC will plan a Hike Wilbraham Day event to introduce the Town to the trail.

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.
- Since Judi was not able to speak with the Stony Brook School principal about a Flag Day event, Edna contacted Soule Road School about it. She had done a successful Arbor Day event there. The staff was interested but felt that too many things were going on at this

point in the school year to do it. Edna suggested Veteran's Day next fall, and the staff agreed.

- Joe spoke with Mr. Wilson (a science teacher at the middle school), about holding a second field trip hike to the Alton's Way Trail. Mr. Wilson said that he would talk with the staff and get back in early June.
- Joe's table for Community Fest managed to pull in 15 people to fill out surveys. After a slow start, traffic picked up and the event proved to be a great way to introduce residents to the trails. Joe also managed to do some networking with members of other committees.

Trail Work/Damaged Kiosk – Jay and Joe

- The Crane Hill kiosk Plexiglas that was vandalized has been replaced by Jay and his wife after Jay and Ed figured out a way to cut it to size.
- Joe found out from the Town accountant that there was a fund for damaged Town property. Joe applied for the replacement cost, and it was granted by the treasurer and the Selectmen.
- Trail maintenance work for the season will start tomorrow at the Rice Preserve. Jay has sent a schedule to OSRPC members and will remind everyone as each session comes up.

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

- Joe said that time will be set aside at our June meeting to plan for Hike Wilbraham Day in the fall to kick off the new Mt. Marcy Trail. It will be especially important to get the word out in the weeks before the event.
- Aaron said that the bike trail idea was again discussed by the Recreation Committee, and they are desirous of getting it done. It is hoped that joint subcommittee meetings of OSRPC and RC can be set up in the fall to explore the matter in depth.
- Thanks to the Community Fest and electronic submissions, OSRPC now has 155 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 because no one put in a bid to do the work. The Conservation Commission will post the job again in the fall.

Ludlow River Trailwalk:

- The OSRPC met at the Ludlow River Trail, conducted its meeting on the benches there, and then walked the trail to check it out and to get ideas. The original idea of connecting the Ludlow trail to a new one in Wilbraham via the old railroad trestle was nixed as the trestle is too decrepit to be used. OSRPC was very impressed by the work put in to building, and maintaining, the trail and urges Town residents to check it out.

New Business: none

Audience of Citizens: none

Next Meeting Date: June 26th at 7:00 in the Selectmen's Room

Adjourn: 8:15 pm **Motion:** Jay **Second:** Mike **Vote:** 8 / 0