

# WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

## Mission Statement:

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

## MINUTES: June 25, 2019

**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, ~~Emilie Egan~~

**Meeting Began:** 6:30 pm | **Minutes for May 28, 2019:** Accepted

**Motion:** Judy | **Second:** Mike | **Vote:** 9/9

**Note:** The meeting was moved from the Easy Trail to the Selectmen's Room due to inclement weather

### Correspondence – Joe

- Nothing open space related in correspondence just a couple of property conversion permits from Planning.

### Mount Marcy Day – All

- The three hikes during the day were all well attended. A total of around 75 people turned out. Eleven of the twelve open space members came to supervise and conduct the 10 am session.
- The reaction of the public was overwhelmingly positive. Hikers ranged from an infant to older folks. Families especially had fun.
- Joe expressed appreciation to all committee members for each contributing in some significant way to make the day a success.
- Joe also mentioned the fact that, in the time immediately after the hike, our Facebook followers increased by 70 people.
- Especially enjoyable was the Riddle Trail that Tracey set up throughout the entire trail.
- The only negative discussed was the fact that the newspaper did not send a reporter, and as a result, what they put in the paper afterwards was just a rehash of what they had previously said in an article before the hike.
- The committee is proud of the fact, as Steve said in his opening day speech, that this beautiful area will now be open and available to the public forever.

### Trail Work and New Signs – Jay

- Jay went through the trail work that committee members had done over the previous month. The Oakland Trail was done but there still is one section that needs more work and will be attacked within a week or two. Jay went with Melissa Graves to the Oakland parking lot to discuss ways to reconfigure it to make it more car friendly. The lot will be expanded a bit with the boulders moved back, and eventually, it will be surfaced with a smoother material.

- Jay explained that three sessions were held at Crane – Twelve Mile, and the area was mostly good to go. Sue expressed the fact that an area out by the Chuck Phillips Trail needed work. Sue also expressed concern that the boy scouts apparently were clearing and marking, with a different color, parts of our trail out in that area. Joe expressed concern because the scoutmaster had come before the committee and offered to help us, but he hasn't contacted us about doing so. Tracey will look into the matter.
- The committee again discussed kiosks for new trails. Joe said that he would add kiosks as a future agenda item. Steve said that the Mt. Marcy kiosk will be paid for by land trust. Steve also said that Donny Downing, who made our other kiosks, is willing to make more. The committee was concerned though that because of an injury, Donnie may not be available.
- Apparently the main trail at Rice's needs work after recent rains. The committee was so involved with working on constructing an alternate trail to avoid the mud, it hadn't taken the main one on in a while. That work will be added to the list. Clearing a route to the river trail is another item on our list for the future. Otherwise, the Underpeak Trail and the Tom Leary trail are good to go.
- The Sawmill Trail is very overgrown according to Jay, and Melissa said that Conservation will go through it with equipment to widen it before open space takes over to mark it and maintain it.
- The Thayer Brook trail will be cleared tomorrow with the help of a crew from Citizen's Bank. If time, the Easy Trail or a trail to Barrett Road will be done too.

#### **Open Space Plan Update: Section 7 – Joe**

- Joe reviewed the previous six sections that we've discussed each meeting since January. Section 7 is very important as it takes the information gathered about the Town's developmental needs which was discussed in section 3 and it's environmental needs which was discussed in section 4 and seeks to find a healthy balance between them so that the needs of both can be met in the future without sacrificing the most important aspects of each. To do this, the committee will look at survey results and use them to compile a compromise plan. The committee will also consult the SCORP (State Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan) which has survey results from the entire state in these matters.
- Joe explained that we would discuss the last two sections of our plan in the fall and that we would actually start looking at drafts of sections in January and put the document together throughout 2020. He then gave suggestions as to what people could do during the summer to prepare their section.

#### **September Topics: Kiosks/Road Signs/Brookside Trail – All**

- Joe went through the items that we would be discussing in the fall around our discussion of the new open space plan.

#### **Inspection and Discussion of Easy Trail – All**

- Because of inclement weather, this event was tabled.

#### **Back Burner – Survey/Brochures/Logo/Geocaching – All**

- Mike has created a QR code for the survey which he will laminate and place at Town Hall and in the library. It will be posted in other locations also. He has finished compiling the data from all surveys that have currently been turned in and will present the statistics in the fall.
- Joe had emailed Margie, a former committee member, and got the digital copy of the Wilbraham Land Brochure from her. That brochure and several others will be redone in the future.
- Marianne is working on a logo specifically for the open space committee. We will look at mock ups in the fall.
- Tracey and Mike are planning to hide some geocaches on Mount Marcy in the future.

**New Business - All**

- Judy brought up the fact that the playground on Manchonis Street Extension may be sold by the Town for possible development. We will await that decision and make a comment at that time.

**Audience of Citizens - None**

**Next Meeting Date:** September 24, 2019

**Adjourn:** 7:44      **Motion:** Mike      **Second:** Jay      **Vote:** 9/9