

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: June 26, 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 May 29, 2018:** Accepted

Motion: Jay | **Second:** Bill | **Vote:** 8/0

Correspondence – Joe:

- Joe introduced Jared Strand, Boy Scouts Scoutmaster, to the Open Space Committee.
- Joe then described for Jared the ongoing maintenance of the trails and the need for assistance with clearing trails with loppers, pruning shears, saws, scythes, etc. Joe explained that, though the committee prefers not to use power equipment, it may resort to it due to the heavy growth this year. Joe also explained the importance for volunteers/scouts to prepare for ticks and bugs.
- Jay described the good work of previous scouts. Jared explained; however, that the current troop is young and thus they would need to be assigned age-appropriate tasks. A project such as railing for a bridge might be too advanced for the group.
- Ed said OS would be able to designate a committee member to sign off on any work completed by the troop as incentive to earn relevant badges.
- Staining and refurbishing the kiosks was mentioned as another potential project, but OS is happy with any maintenance assistance.
- Jay provided the current maintenance schedule and Joe and Jay provided Jared with contact information.

Hiking Challenge Redo - All:

- Joe distributed the remaining Hiking Challenge trail markers to members to be posted for maximum visibility. They will be placed up and down range of the trails instead of facing into the trails as they do currently. The hiking challenge will be re-publicized in the fall.

Mount Marcy - All:

- The trail will likely be established after the parking lot has been put in. According to Steve, the area is very overgrown and steep. The MLT and the former owners are working on putting up tentative trail markers and doing some clearing with a small Bobcat. OS will then be called in to advise. Switchbacks will likely be necessary.

QR Codes - Joe:

- Joe put up the first map QR code at the McDonald's kiosk and it works well. The remaining codes will be put up as trail work is done. Hikers will then be able to instantly load a map on their phones.

All Trails App - All:

- Joe played with the app, which is the most popular hiking app, and found that in order for a trail to be included in the app, someone has to GPS the trail from it. Sue volunteered to give it a try. It is hoped that this will make the trails more available to the public. Sue said she would probably be able to complete mapping of the trails in about a year.

Summer Trail Work Issues - Jay:

- Maintenance has been scheduled for every 2 weeks, but, because of the heavy vegetation this spring, trails really need attention/work weekly. With enough help, trails can be done in less than 2 hours because people can spread out and cover a lot of ground.
- Twelve Mile is currently overgrown, and the Thayer Brook sign is buried again. Jay asked for ideas in making sure we have enough people for ongoing maintenance.
- Jay liked that members have adopted a trail to evaluate and report needs to the group.

Trail Adoption List:

MacDonald/Alton's Way – Joe/Brian

Rice Trails - Bill

Oakland - Mike

Twelve Mile - Sue

Crane Hill - Jay

Mount Marcy - Tracey

Fountain Park - Tracey

Thayer - Marianne

- Sue suggested reaching out to local companies for trail adoption. Bill said he would make a presentation to the Rotary Club.
- Jay brought up the cost of the Echo 58v weed whacker. While he prefers not to have power tools on the trails, he feels there needs to be something more efficient, given the current difficulties keeping trails clear. The group was in agreement that we should have the tool. Jay will ask the Conservation Commission for the funds, and we should be able to use one by mid-July.
- The group discussed stain vs. polyurethane to refurbish the kiosks and agreed on polyurethane. Bill suggested including a key for trail symbols at kiosks for those less familiar with hiking. Joe will look into it.
- Trail Work Dates (all at 8:45): 7/11 – 12 Mile, 7/25 – Crane, 8/1 - Thayer

Fall Hike Marcy Day - all:

- Since this can't be planned until Mt. Marcy is finished, it was tabled until September.

Back Burner - Bike Trail/Forest Management/Survey/OSRP

Update– All:

- Bike trail committee on hold until meetings resume in the fall; no forest management at Alton's as yet; no surveys have been received since the last meeting; no new OSRP manual posted yet.

New Business: None

Audience of Citizens: None

Next Meeting Date: September 25, 2018

Adjourn: 8:18 **Motion:** Judi **Second:** Bill **Vote:** 8 /0