

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, June 30, 2020

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 Minutes for Tuesday, February 25, 2020: Accepted

Motion: Judi | **Second:** Jay | **Vote:** 8/8

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence – Joe

- None obtained due to Coronavirus closing of Town Hall.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Section 7C – Joe

- Joe went over section 7C which lists the maintenance needs of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and of the Recreation Department. He explained how several other committees have a hand in the maintenance needs of our environmental areas also as it is a major task to maintain healthy forest growth, accessible open space areas and the vast number of recreation areas and facilities in Town. Cooperation is necessary. He thanked Sue for interviewing all pertinent committee and department heads to make this section complete.
- Joe also stressed the importance of maintenance in the overall picture of our environment and why to just acquire new areas and equipment is not enough. We must be committed as a Town to keeping areas and facilities in top shape for the future.
- Finally, Joe talked about the significance of having sections 7A, 7B, and 7C completed as they contain the conclusions in terms of what will be needed in the future by the OSRPC and the Recreation Department, based on all of the data gathered in the previous six sections, on interviews with Town committee and department heads, and on over 330 resident surveys.
- In September, the OSRPC will come up with the final section of its report – its goals and its seven-year plan to meet them. Section 7's needs will be used as the basis for the final section.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Section 5 Prep – All

- Joe explained that section 5 was a tough one because it lists almost 1000 land parcels that are all nature or have just one structure on them. The report calls for OSRPC to update this list. It usually involves going parcel by parcel and checking for changes.
- Steve is going to try to get a list of new construction and chapter 61, 61A, 61B, and 61C activity over the past eight years. If those files exist anywhere, our task will be much easier.
- Joe wants section 5 (which also includes a chart, map and narrative) done by summer's end so the fall can be devoted to the 7-year plan.

Hollow Road Rice Parking Lot – All

- Joe said that we are awaiting word from the Town lawyer as to whether or not Hollow Road is a private way. If it is not, the current thinking is to put a parking lot at the gate on the Monson Road side of Hollow Road. The hope is to relieve congestion on the other side of the Rice Preserve at the Highmoor Drive cul-de-sac. Hikers can then access the Preserve by hiking down Hollow Road and up the newly created Sunrise Peak trail.

Gleason Land – Joe and Steve

- Steve said that he felt the Gleason land would not need a lot of work to maintain as it is used continually by neighbors from the various streets that run into it.
- Joe mentioned that he saw this area as more of a wildlife, flora, fauna, and water preserve area than a hiking destination. It provides a sizable habitat and wildlife corridor which is listed by the state as important.
- The committee feels that no parking area should be added and that it should be just labeled as a Town Conservation Area. If a parking area is put in, it should be small and unobtrusive.

Twelve Mile Bridge – Tracey

- Tracey explained that a construction company will be tasked with installing the bridge and she went through the history of the project.
- Unfortunately, Melissa Graves said that it will take the company 5-7 weeks to manufacture the bridge parts, before construction can even begin.

Signs and Kiosks – All

- Joe went through the various trail areas and made a wish list of needed signage. The list will be forwarded to Melissa Graves and a decision will be made as to which signs will be produced. Marianne is working on a logo for the signs.
- There will be a kiosk funding warrant item at next year's town meeting. The committee came up with 3-4 possible sites for new ones. Joe talked about the need to renew the current kiosks both by finishing the varnishing that Edna started and by updating their

contents. Joe cited the recently deceased, Jim Maurer, for all of his help with replacing kiosk maps in the past.

Trailwork Update – Jay

- Jay mentioned how the recent rain had, once again, sparked a lot of growth and how he would put out calls for maintenance help through the summer. Citizens Bank employees are helping with Thayer Brook maintenance next week. Also on the list for work in the next weeks are Alton's Way, 12 Mile and Mount Marcy.

Back Burner – Logos/Maps/Regional Conservation Partnership – N/A

New Business - None

Audience of Citizens - None

Next Meeting Date – September 29, 2020

Adjourn: 8:00 Motion: Judi Second: Jay Vote: 8/8