

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: September 25, 2018

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Marianne Ingrid Moner, ~~Steve Lawson~~, ~~Brian Fitzgerald~~, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Ed McCorkindale, Susan Burk, Bill Shepard, Edna Colcord, Mike Pelletier, Tracey Plantier, Emilie Egan

Meeting Began: 7 pm | **Minutes for June 26, 2018:** Accepted

Motion: Edna | **Second:** Sue | **Vote:** 10 /0

Correspondence – Joe said that he Planning Board is considering two solar panel applications which; unfortunately, will lead to the loss of trees in about 20 acres of North Wilbraham, but the projects do not abut our land and won't affect our trails. Tracey provided some details about a revised proposal for mixed use in the center of town. The last one was rejected by a few votes at Town meeting. Judi mentioned that no children and no decks would be allowed this time. The proposal will come to the next Town meeting.

Aaron Tillbury / Emilie Egan – Joe introduced Emilie Egan our new liaison from the Recreation Committee. Emilie offered ideas for getting more surveys submitted such handing them out at the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot race.

Alton Trail Accident – Judi provided details about the accident involving 5 girls on a 2 seater UTV. No seatbelts and speed were also factors. Joe explained that we have no ability to police the trail areas on our own, and the Wilbraham PD does not feel they can enter the trail and intervene due to a jurisdictional conflict with the Environmental Police, but Judi contacted Rep Pupullo's office and found that our police do have jurisdiction as the land is Wilbraham owned land. Judy will pursue this further. Joe suggested posting signs at each entrance. Judi felt that the environmental police should provide the signs and will look into it. Joe mentioned tapping CPC or Conservation money, and Tracey added that the signs are probably not as expensive as we anticipate. Joe delegated the research about various types of signs to Marianne.

Nominations for Chair and Recorder - Joe felt that, after serving as Chair for 7 years, it was time for someone new to take over. Judi felt that it was an awkward time to switch the Chair given the upcoming need to prepare a new Open Space Plan. Bill felt that Joe's knowledge and experience were needed. Edna thought new ideas were always a good thing but committee members could still offer them at meetings. The topic of having someone shadow Joe was brought up - Judi felt Marianne would be a good candidate. Marianne accepted and will do so.

Motion to nominate Joe for Chair: Edna, Second: Judi, 8 for /2 abstain

Motion to elect Joe for Chair: Edna, second: Judi, 8 for /2 abstain

Motion to nominate Marianne for Recording Secretary: Tracey, Second: Edna 10/0

Motion to elect Marianne for Recording Secretary: Tracey, Second: Edna 10/0

Bank Volunteers – Sue mentioned that Berkshire Bank boasts of high volunteerism and suggested we contact them about doing trailwork. Assuming it works, we could call other banks and perhaps get all 7 trails covered. Bill reached out to the Rotary Club with poor results and felt that going directly to companies is a better strategy. Ed had concerns about bringing other groups into the trails to do maintenance, but others felt trailwork by companies would be done at a specific time and would not impact trail users or committee members who enjoy doing trailwork. Sue will check with the Conservation Commission to be sure there is not a conflict in going directly to companies. Jay mentioned a volunteer waiver. Jay then explained to Emilie what trailwork entails and that clearing trails and maintenance can extend from spring into winter.

Hiking Challenge Last Call - Joe: Joe felt the challenge was dead since no one has come forward to claim they found the markers. Marianne felt it could still be an option and thinks we should again market the idea to the public. It was tabled for future discussions.

Mount Marcy Progress – In an email, Steve said that he Minnechaug Trust wants to wait to finish the trail due to heavy vegetation. Steve suggested a Black Friday kickoff hike would be best. In terms of publicity, Emilie mentioned contacting the Macaroni Kids, part of a national organization, and Joe felt that would also be a good group for the story book walk. Making announcements via the YMCA and town cable channel was also mentioned. Joe will contact Steve about being interviewed by the Wilbraham Times.

All Trails App – Sue said that so far the app has been a disappointment. Sue had technical difficulty and will try again. Joe pointed out it's the most popular app and it would be great to get our trails mapped on it.

Trail Work – Jay and Edna: Edna put varnish on the kiosk at Thayer and plans to do the other kiosks. Jay said that the perimeter of Oakland is in good shape. The entrance will be expanded for parking and there is an order for a stone dust parking lot. 12 Mile Brook's lot will be a 2 step process: the DPW will dump a pile of broken pavement and then crush and spread it. Jay also reported that the use of weed whackers was delayed by storms to the south, but we will have them soon. Joe said that Alton's still has high grass to be cut. Mike will try to do more at Oakland. Jay mentioned 3 people for minor trailwork is ideal whereas two people isn't sufficient. Jay also said that several people have expressed appreciation for the maintenance.

Back Burner - Bike Trail/Mount Marcy Hike Day/Survey/OSRP Update– All

Emilie will speak with the Recreation Committee about setting up a joint committee meeting regarding a bike trail. Joe said that we need to keep pushing the survey, as we haven't had many filled out lately. The OSRPC is hoping for about 300 completed surveys to use to create the goals for the new OSRPC plan. Joe pointed out they must be filled out by Wilbraham residents and mentioned the new workbook has not yet come out but that we would start the plan next year.

New Business – Judi brought up the "easy" trail for people with disabilities. Joe said that the trail was being planned for Thayer Brook. Mike said that, in Three Rivers, there is an "easy" trail around the town field's perimeter which should be checked out, and the town is in the process of

installing a fitness trail there. Edna suggested McDonald's for an easy access trail, but Joe said we should wait to see how Thayer goes first.

Audience of Citizens - None

Next Meeting Date: October 30, 2018 in Conference Room 1

Adjourn: 8:35 pm **Motion:** Judi **Second:** Tracey **Vote:** 10/0